



Welsh Bird Report No. 25: 2011

Edited by Rhion Pritchard

CONTENTS

Introduction and acknowledgements	p. 2
An introduction to BirdTrack (<i>Nick Moran</i>)	p. 8
Classified records for 2011	p. 13
A report on bird ringing in Wales during 2011 (<i>Peter Howlett</i>)	p. 176

Published in December 2012 by
The Welsh Ornithological Society
Charity No. 1037823
Price - £8.00

WELSH BIRD REPORT NO. 25: 2011

Introduction

The map shows the bird recording areas for Wales used in *Birds in Wales*. Following the creation of Unitary Authorities as the basis of local Government, the Welsh Ornithological Society decided to switch to the Watsonian Vice-county system (see the Ray Society, publication No. 146) as the basis of bird recording in Wales. This system largely matches the pre-1974 administrative Counties used by the Society until 1996.

The Bird Recording Areas in Wales



COUNTY	VC No.	Recorder
ANGLESEY Records published in Cambrian Bird Report	52	Steve Culley, 22 Cae Dedwydd, Cemaes Bay, Anglesey LL67 0LP. Email: SteCul10@aol.com
BRECON *	42	Andrew King, Heddfan, Pennorth, Brecon. Powys LD3 7EX Email: andrew.king53@virgin.net
CAERNARFON Records in the Cambrian Bird Report	49	J. Barnes, Fach Goch, Waunfawr, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 4YS Email: rhion678pritchard@btinternet.com
CARMARTHEN	44	Owen Harris, 5 Williams Terrace, Burry Port, Carmarthen SA16 0PG Email: Owenharris@aol.com
CEREDIGION *	46	Russell Jones, Bron y Gan, Talybont, Ceredigion SY24 5ER Email: russell.jones@rspb.org.uk
DENBIGH & FLINT Records published in the North East Wales Bird Report	50 & 51	Ian Spence, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold CH7 6LT Email: ianspence.cr@btinternet.com www.cbrg.org.uk
E. GLAMORGAN * (Bridgend, Rhondda / Cynon / Taff, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Caerphilly)	41	David Gilmore, 116 Donald Street, Roath Park, Cardiff CF24 4TN Email: d.gilmore2@ntlworld.com
GOWER * (Swansea & Neath / Port Talbot)	41	Robert H A Taylor, 285 Llangyfelach Road, Brynhyfryd, Swansea SA5 9LB Email: rob@birding.freemove.co.uk
GWENT *	35	Chris Jones, 22 Walnut Drive, Caerleon, Newport NP18 3SB Email: Countyrecorder@Gwentbirds.org.uk
MEIRIONNYDD Records in the Cambrian Bird Report	48	J. Dustow, Afallon, 7 Glan y Don, Rhiwbryfdir, Blaenau Ffestiniog. Gwynedd. LL41 3LW Email: Jim.Dustow@rspb.org.uk
MONTGOMERY	47	Paul Leafe, 24 Parc Hafod, Tregynon, Powys SY16 3EQ Email: paul_leafe@hotmail.co.uk
PEMBROKE *	45	J. Green & S. Berry, c/o Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan. SA43 2AR Email: jonrg@tiscali.co.uk
RADNOR	43	Pete Jennings, 7 Hillcrest Rise, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6BN. Email: radnorshirebirds@hotmail.com

Those vice-counties marked with a * publish a bird report. Details of these are given inside the back cover. The North East Wales Bird Report is not being published this year

owing to Atlas commitments, but some records for DENBIGH have been obtained from the RSPB Conwy report, provided by Julian Hughes. Similarly, although a complete report for MONTGOMERY is not available at present, records have been taken from the RSPB Lake Vyrnwy report, provided by Jim Dustow. **Birds in Wales** was published by T. & A.D. Poyser in 1994. This was updated in 2002 with the WOS publication **Birds in Wales 1992-2000**. Both are now out of print, though Christopher Helm have re-issued **Birds in Wales** as a POD and e-version.

TREATMENT OF RECORDS IN THE WELSH BIRD REPORT

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 2011 unless otherwise indicated. Additions and corrections for previous years are recorded in the main List, with the relevant year shown. Species names and order follow the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) British List as of 15th Dec 2011. The species included in the main list are those placed by the BOU in Category A (recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950) or Category C (introduced species which now have a self-sustaining population).

For wildfowl and waders monthly maximum counts for the main sites are tabulated as available. Unless noted as WeBS, these figures are the peak count noted for each species in each site in each month and do not represent coordinated counts on a single day. Some overlap may therefore occur, as birds move between sites. For some wildfowl, the numbers of breeding pairs are assessed by the number of males present during the breeding season.

Records from GLAMORGAN are split into E. GLAMORGAN or GOWER. The area along the Wye, around Glasbury, is entered as RADNOR / BRECON unless the county was specifically identified by the respective county recorders. RSPB Conwy reserve is treated as being in DENBIGH unless the bird concerned was specifically noted to be in the small corner of the reserve which lies in CAERNARFON.

The records for many scarcer migrants are summarised to show the total recorded in spring and/or autumn, the spread of dates on which recorded, the monthly totals to show the pattern of occurrence and the total number seen in each county. Where a bird stays into 2 or more months it is recorded for each month.

The species comments are those to be found in *Birds in Wales* or *Birds in Wales 1992-2000*, with some modifications. The species codes are as follows: (A) *A rare species where all records are quoted*, (B) *Unusual species, where a summary of records is given*, (C) *Commoner species, where a summary of breeding records, large counts or unusual records is given*, (D) *A common species, where there is nothing of note to report*.

Species under threat given Red or Amber codes for Wales are noted. These are based on Johnstone, I, Young, A. and Thorpe, R.I. "The revised population status of birds in Wales" *Birds in Wales* Vol.7 No 1 (2010) pp.39 - 91. Species where a WeBS High Alert has been issued for Wales are also noted, based on Thaxter, C.B., Sansom, A. Thewlis, R.M., Calbrade, N.A., Ross-Smith, V.H., Bailey, S., Mellan, H.J. & Austin, G.E. (2010) *Wetland Bird Survey Alerts 2006/2007: Changes in numbers of wintering waterbirds in the Constituent Countries of the United Kingdom, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)*. BTO Research Report 556. BTO, Thetford.

SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

It is the policy of the Society NOT TO PUBLISH in this Report any records of species on the list of the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) or on the list of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) unless that record has been considered and accepted by the BBRC or WRP. Where a species is on one of these lists, this is noted in the comment on status. All records have been accepted by the relevant body unless specifically stated otherwise.

Not all records of species on these lists reach the relevant committee. Records not published here may never have been submitted or be still under consideration. It is helpful if descriptions of BBRC and WRP species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting.

Records submitted too late for a decision in time for publication in the Report for that year will be included in subsequent years if accepted.

Records should be submitted to BBRC through County Recorders or in an electronic form ONLY to secretary@bbrc.org.uk. If it is a written or typed description, please send to the WRP Secretary, Jon Green, who will scan and send it on to BBRC.

WELSH RECORDS PANEL

The Welsh Records Panel considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year in Wales on average, but which are not on the BBRC list. The current list is shown below. Only records of these species adjudicated and accepted by the Panel are published in the Welsh Bird Report.

Descriptions can be submitted via County Recorders or direct to the Panel's Secretary. Description forms are available from County Recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the Panel can see their deliberations on the record on request. The Panel has 5 voting members and a non-voting Secretary; membership in 2010-11 comprised:

Reg Thorpe (Caernarfon, Chair), Mike Powell (E. Glamorgan), Richard Dobbins (Pembrokeshire), Marc Hughes (Caernarfon), Steve Culley (Anglesey), S.D. Stansfield (Bardsey). J. Green (non-voting Secretary) (Ceredigion); address: Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR, email: welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk

As of 1 January 2011, the full list of species which the Panel considered was as follows:

Bean Goose
 American Wigeon
 Green-winged Teal
 Ring-necked Duck
 Ferruginous Duck
 Surf Scoter
 White-billed Diver
 Cory's Shearwater
 Great Shearwater
 Wilson's Petrel
 Great White Egret
 Cattle Egret
 Night Heron
 Purple Heron
 White Stork
 Black Kite
 Montagu's Harrier
 Rough-legged Buzzard
 White-tailed Eagle
 Golden Eagle
 Red-footed Falcon
 Corncrake
 Spotted Crake
 Crane
 Stone-curlew
 Kentish Plover
 American Golden Plover
 Temminck's Stint,
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Red-necked Phalarope
 Caspian Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 White-winged Black Tern
 Alpine Swift
 Short-toed Lark

Wood Lark
 Shore Lark
 Bee-eater
 Red-rumped Swallow
 Red-throated Pipit
 Richard's Pipit (*)
 Tawny Pipit
 Nightingale
 Bluethroat
 Aquatic Warbler
 Marsh Warbler
 Icterine Warbler
 Melodious Warbler
 Subalpine Warbler
 Barred Warbler
 Greenish Warbler
 Dusky Warbler
 Radde's Warbler
 Pallas's Warbler
 Red-breasted Flycatcher
 Rose-coloured Starling
 Red-backed Shrike
 Woodchat Shrike
 Golden Oriole
 Bearded Tit
 Serin
 Parrot Crossbill
 Common Redpoll
 Arctic Redpoll
 Common Rosefinch
 Corn Bunting
 Cirl Bunting
 Ortolan Bunting
 Rustic Bunting
 Little Bunting

(*) Descriptions were required in 2011 as a trial to determine status and patterns of occurrence.

Scarce races are considered on the same basis, i.e. all those occurring on average five times or fewer annually). Examples of races considered by the WRP are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*
 Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*
 Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*
 Razorbill – *torda*
 Little Auk – *polaris*
 Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*
 Grey-headed Wagtail – *thunbergi*

Siberian Chiffchaff – *tristis*
 Treecreeper – *familiaris*
 Coal Tit – *ater*
 Jay – *glandarius*
 Jackdaw – *monedula*
 Redpolls – *islandica* / *rostrata*
 Bullfinch – *pyrrhula*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sections of this report were compiled by Julian Hughes (Wildfowl), Jon Green (Raptors), Bob Haycock (Skuas to Terns), Richard Facey (Nightjar to Hirundines) and Stephanie Tyler (remainder of Passerines). I would like to thank them for their hard work.

Thanks are due to all County Recorders and observers for the data upon which the Systematic List is based and to Recorders and Editors also for their help with all the Editor's additional queries. Extra information was supplied by Tony Cross (The Welsh Kite Trust; Red Kite), Steve Roberts (Honey-buzzard) and Adrienne Stratford (Cross/Stratford Welsh Chough Project; Chough). Thanks are due also to R.J. Howells for his comprehensive tables, given here as Burry (S), which are complete counts made on the same day over the high-tide period along the south side of the Burry Inlet. The Ringing Report was produced by Peter Howlett, from ringing returns from the various ringing groups in Wales. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and for sending in their records.

Photographs were provided by Dave Astins, Steve Culley, John Davis, Clive Hurford, Derek Moore, Mike Nesbitt and Robert Taylor. My thanks to all for their help, and also to Ian Spence for his help with the cover design.

Rhion Pritchard, Editor.

Pant Afonig, Hafod Lane, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4BU

An introduction to BirdTrack

The Welsh Ornithological Society is now a member of the BirdTrack partnership, hence we have included this article with the Welsh Bird Report. There are two reasons for doing this: firstly, the Welsh Ornithological Society encourages observers to use BirdTrack to store their bird records so that they are both available for the observer to explore, and are readily available to the relevant county bird recorder(s). Secondly, we would like counties that do not, as yet, have a database of bird records to consider using BirdTrack as the county database. This article provides an introduction to the use of BirdTrack by individual observers; if anyone in Wales has a query about using BirdTrack, please contact the Secretary in the first instance.

BirdTrack: Getting started

BirdTrack is designed to capture your records in a way that is relevant, interesting and meaningful to you. At the same time your records feed into a national database being used to study migration movements and distributions of birds throughout Britain and Ireland, thereby supporting species conservation and, with your permission, are available for use by the local bird recorder(s) and bird report writer(s).

Data collected centrally by BirdTrack is essential in making the case to decision makers when trying to safeguard our birds. Every record is immensely valuable for this purpose.

Register / login

Bird records are most valuable when they are linked to a named, contactable observer. For this reason, you are asked to provide some details when you register for BirdTrack via the 'Register' button on the BirdTrack Home page (www.birdtrack.net) which shows:

BirdTrack
Recording birds across Britain and Ireland

Home + Information + Register + Welcome to BirdTrack

Welcome to BirdTrack

The online bird recording system that increases the personal, local and national value of your sightings.

How to BirdTrack? [Read more about it...](#)

Jaywatch
5 Oct 2012

The [reporting rate for jays](#) routinely climbs at this time of year, as birds make regular foraging flights to collect and cache food for the winter. However, last week's reporting rate was the highest ever, reaching 38% (compared to the average of 27% for the first week of October). High-flying birds and large numbers were noted in many unusual locations in Norfolk, for example, at least 1500 passed over Hunstanton on 5 October. Such observations hint that some of the Jays being seen may be of continental origin, though the picture is complicated by native birds dispersing from breeding areas in search of food.

Yellow-browed Warbler
29 Sep 2012

Breeding no closer than the Russian Urals, it is perhaps a bit surprising that Yellow-browed Warbler is a frequent - and increasing - migrant to Britain and Ireland. September is the classic month to find this diminutive stay with individuals often joining M flocks at coastal sites, especially in the east. This year's first record wasn't until 22 September, nearly a fortnight later than in 2010/11. Yellow-browed Warblers are now here in force, with birds being recorded from the Orkneys to the Solihull - and even as far west as County Mayo, Ireland, in the last week.

Other recent updates
[Sparrows calling](#)
[Turdus](#)
[Ornithology news](#)
[Warblers on the wing](#)
[BirdTrack Archive](#), view all previous updates

BIRDTRACK PHOTOS

DESKTOP WALLPAPER

BIRDTRACK TEAM
[BirdTrack Archive](#) behind BirdTrack at the BTO

[BirdTrack on Twitter](#) [BirdTrack on Facebook](#)

Anyone who has used the online data entry systems for Bird Atlas 2007–11, the Breeding Bird Survey, the Wetland Bird Survey, Garden BirdWatch or any other BTO online survey can set up BirdTrack using the same username and password. The BirdTrack Home page looks like this:

Creating sites

BirdTrack has a strong site-based component. The idea is to encourage birdwatchers to keep an eye on their local patch(es) and submit records from them on a regular basis. Setting up a site is easy: just click the 'Create New Site' button on the BirdTrack Data Home page (the page you see once logged in) to show:

Zoom in on the map (use the zoom tool to the top left of the map screen) to where you were then either point the cursor over the right place then hold down the shift key (open up-arrow) and left-click with your mouse, or enter the postcode or grid reference if you know it. There is also a pre-populated list of 'Top County Birding Sites', where you can find some of the better-known birding sites in your area – by using this route to set up sites for better-known spots, you can help the local bird recorders by using the agreed names for particular sites.

Once you have located the site, you will be asked whether the whole site fits into a 1-km, tetrad or 10-km square. This is just so that we know whether all of your records from a particular site can be allocated to an OS grid square, for mapping purposes. Don't worry if the site overlaps one or more square boundaries; simply choose the appropriate size of square that encompasses your entire site.

Once you have created a site, it will be available in a dropdown menu when you come to add records.

Adding records

You can add Species Lists and Casual Records for visits to your birdwatching site(s).

Species Lists are for easily recording all of the species you identified whilst birdwatching at a site, while **Casual Records** allow you to record one or a few of the more interesting records, or any highlights of a short visit to a site.

For either method, you can include as much detail as you like; present-only can be indicated with a tick, or you can add extra information by clicking the '+' button to reveal a selection of optional details such as age/sex/plumage, habitat notes and direction of flight. Adding a count is worth doing wherever possible, as it can give you a rough idea of the relative abundance of different species at the sites you visit.

'Complete lists' are Species Lists that feature all the species you positively identified and recorded during your visit. These lists are particularly valuable because they offer a measure of absence as well as presence, providing a powerful tool for looking at both arrival and departure times of migratory species. You can mark a list as complete by ticking the box at the top or bottom of the list, marked "Please check this box if the list you are submitting includes ALL the bird species you saw or heard during your visit".

When you're ready to get started, simply click the prominent 'Add Records' button on your BirdTrack Data Home page, then choose either 'Add Species List' or 'Add Casual Record'.

The **Roving record** tool is the 'no frills' way to log your sightings, designed to capture your sightings from one-off locations, such as a Red Kite flying over the road (when someone else is driving, of course!). The records are not linked to one of your existing sites, and are located by moving the cursor over the right spot on a map, then holding down the shift key (open up-arrow) and left-clicking with your mouse. Hey presto, the grid reference is captured; all you need to do is give the place a name, add the date and species, and a count if you wish.

Finally, if you already use another piece of software or a spreadsheet to store your bird records, there is an upload tool with which you can import up to 5,000 records at a time into BirdTrack. All you need to do is put your records into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, standardise the format to match the BirdTrack fields, then follow the online instructions.

Don't forget: Log it or lose it!

Exploring your records

So your records are in BirdTrack, available for the 'greater goods' of monitoring, research, local report writing and more besides. Whilst that in itself may be ample motivation for submitting records, BirdTrack offers a range of exciting outputs that add an enormous amount of personal value to your records. The more records you have in the system, the more powerful it becomes for you.

This section looks at the **Explore My Records** tool, and highlights a selection of the outputs available. To really appreciate the benefits of this tool though, there is no substitute for entering some records, then having a go!

Clicking the '**Explore My Records**' link on the Data Home page (the page you see once logged in) takes you through to a blank set of 'tabs' in the middle of the page: **Table**, **Map** and **Graph**. To the left of these tabs are a series of filters: Dates, Locations, Species and Project. The idea is that you set the filter – or filters – you want, click the 'GO' button, and the relevant selection of data is presented in the tabs.

BirdTrack
Recording birds across Britain and Ireland

Data Home - Explore My Records
Explore My Records

User: BASPENCE1
10/10/2012

Month list: 107 species (+0 recs from 1,230 records, 6 complete lists, 129 locations)

Species	Recs	Comp	Comp%	1st Date	1st Location	Earliest	Latest
Barn Owl	6	0	N/A	12/09/2008	Glaston	n/a	n/a
Black-headed Gull	2	1	N/A	01/06/2012	Shotton Paper Mill	n/a	n/a
Bractbird	32	30	75.0	23/06/2008	Beeches Farm	n/a	n/a
Blackbird	30	29	62.5	09/06/2008	Myrddid Llanerth	n/a	n/a
Blue Tit	32	30	75.0	10/06/2008	Newbridge Pentire	n/a	n/a
Bullfinch	21	19	62.5	14/09/2008	Cross Lanes	n/a	n/a
Buzzard	30	30	12.5	25/06/2008	Gorse-ween-Brydy	n/a	n/a
Canada Goose	1	1	N/A	02/05/2011	Hargrove Hall	n/a	n/a
Carrion Crow	27	26	25.0	04/06/2008	Ty Newydd	n/a	n/a
Chaffinch	35	31	100.0	19/06/2008	Newbridge Pentire	n/a	n/a
Chiffchaff	34	30	75.0	09/06/2008	Myrddid Llanerth	n/a	n/a
Coal Tit	20	18	37.5	10/06/2008	Newbridge Pentire	n/a	n/a
Colared Dove	20	19	37.5	23/06/2008	Beeches Farm	n/a	n/a
Common Crossbill	6	5	25.0	23/06/2010	TYVUSG	n/a	n/a

Search for Species: []

BirdTrack is organized by the BTO for the BTO, RSPB, Birdwatch Ireland, SOC, and WOB
Terms and Conditions | Privacy Statement | Contact Us
Registered Charity Number 210652
© British Trust for Ornithology

Here's the most straightforward filter as an example: viewing all your records:

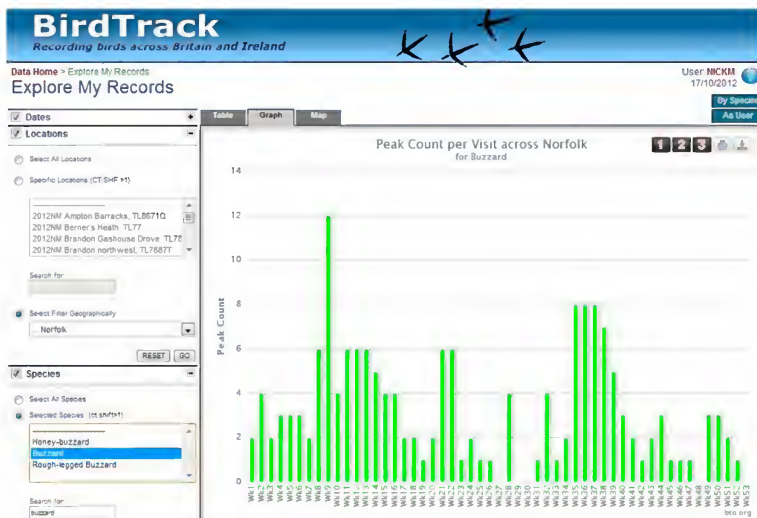
1. Click 'Explore My Records' on the Data Home page;
2. Click 'GO' in the 'Dates' filter (the 'Dates' filter opens by default, and the 'Select All Species' radio button is automatically selected)... and that's all there is to it!

Summary stats are presented along the top of the 'Table' tab, showing your life list, number of records, number of Complete Lists and number of locations. The summary table accommodates 14 rows; if you have records for more species than this, you can scroll through the additional pages by clicking the numbers at the bottom right of the screen.

You can then move between the Table, Graph (which for this selection are Number of Species per Year, Number of Species per Month, and Species accumulation) and Map

outputs by clicking the relevant tab at the top left of the screen. The different graph outputs are accessed by clicking the '1', '2' or '3' at the top right of the Graph tab, and you can either print or download any of the graphs using the print or download icons next to the 3 number buttons.

If you want to download all the data that you have selected using the filter, simply return to the 'Table' tab and click the Microsoft Excel icon at the top right of the screen. The resulting file contains two sheets. Below is a graph of my Buzzard counts in Norfolk.



I've been BirdTracking avidly since I returned from a seven-year stint overseas in 2009. During that period I've entered more than 33,000 records, bolstered by another 14,000 from back-dated notebooks from my formative years. Adding my day-to-day records hasn't been an onerous task – it was simply a case of getting into the habit of logging my field notebook lists online, rather than writing up 'in neat' as I used to do. Now I've gone a step further and use the fantastic new BirdTrack app for Android smartphones to log my sightings whilst in the field! The beauty of the BirdTrack approach is that I can now access and interrogate my own records in a matter of seconds, instead of having to thumb through countless logbooks to find the information I want.

Nick Moran

BirdTrack is organised by the BTO, on behalf of the BTO, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), BirdWatch Ireland, the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC) and the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS).

Systematic List 2011

Abbreviations used in the Systematic List are:

AON	Apparently Occupied Nest	NR	Nature Reserve
AOS	Apparently Occupied Site	NNR	National Nature Reserve
CP	Country Park	WR	Wetlands Reserve

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

ALARCH DOF

(C) Resident breeding species, now increasing in most counties. Wales Amber-listed.

The upward trend for wintering birds continues, with a 69% increase in the decade from 1995 (Wetland Bird Survey alerts: BTO/JNCC/RSPB). The threshold for inclusion in the table (below) of systematic site counts has been increased from 25 to 40 birds recorded at least once during the year to reflect the population increase:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
St Brides	33	52	57	10	0	2	0	3	4	4	8	50
E GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park L	75	80	83	103	54	109					129	
Cosmeston L	48	56	65	42	38	32	28	36	30	38	40	39
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth	20	41	21		31			5	12	29	30	17
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	62	46	67	10		2			43	59	39	77
Sandy WP				26			67	73				
PEMBROKE												
Pemb Mill P	64	81	72							69	60	43
Bosherton	25	25	60							21		22
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi Est	2	2	3				53	50	51	7	5	5
BRECON												
Llangorse	49	19	19	44	35	126	173	173	163	165	175	108
CAERNARFON												
Foryd Bay			16			42		26	27	35		
Traeth Lafan	9	8	12	2		20		100	75	24	13	10

Max. elsewhere were: **E. GLAMORGAN:** 130 at Hamadryad Park on 22nd June; **BRECON:** Winter flock in oil seed rape near Glasbury peaked at 145 on 13th Feb; **RADNOR:** 140 on the Lower Wye on 30th Jan.

Breeding counts (not full surveys except **GOWER**) were received as follows: **GWENT:** 18 nests at 14 sites; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Confirmed at 15 sites; **GOWER:** 14 nests, of which 10 hatched 52 cygnets, 40 surviving until late summer; **CARMARTHEN:** Seven pairs confirmed at six sites; **BRECON:** 11 nests at nine sites; **CEREDIGION:** Three pairs at two sites; **RADNOR:** 24 pairs; **MEIRIONNYDD:**

Confirmed at three sites; **CAERNARFON**: Three pairs at three sites; **ANGLESEY**: Two nests at two sites.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii*

ALARCH BEWICK

(A) *Irregular winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Amber-listed.*

A year of paucity, the lowest total for some years, even if the regular flock on the Dee Estuary had been included.

All records were: **GWENT**: 8 at Llangybi on 9th Jan, 8 there on 30th Dec; four at Peterstone Gout, 9th Jan - 23rd Feb; **E. GLAMORGAN**: One at Kenfig Pool on 8th.9th Feb; **CARMARTHEN**: Six at Rhosmaen, 7th-20th Jan then at Gelli Aur on 13th Feb, one at Cilsan Bridge, 7th-15th March, then at Dryslwyn on 17th; **PEMBROKE**: Two at Brunt Farm, Kete, 1st Jan - 4th March; **BRECON**: 14 at Llangorse Lake during severe weather on 3rd Jan, subsequently seen at Bronydd, **RADNOR**, 4th-6th Jan.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

(B) *Regular winter visitor in small numbers to several Welsh counties, notably Anglesey, Caernarfon, Montgomery and Meirionnydd.*

Numbers counted in Wales have fallen in both the short- and long-term (Wetland Bird Survey alerts: BTO/JNCC/RSPB), but the regular wintering sites continue to be used. Counts from these included:

		J	F	M	A		S	O	N	D
CARMARTHEN	Tywi Valley	26	20	30	3			2	11	19
CEREDIGION	Cors Caron	7		4				1		10
MEIRIONNYDD	Glaslyn Marshes	50	32							
ANGLESEY	Treysgawen Hall	43			20				2	25
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy							9	3	10

Elsewhere, county totals in each month:

	J	F	M	A		A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN									2	1
CARMARTHEN	9								5	
PEMBROKE	6	4	4					1	10	3
CEREDIGION	4	5						7	16	3
BRECON	7							2		1
RADNOR	6								4	4
MEIRIONNYDD	1	1	1				1		6	1
CAERNARFON	16	6	11					1	5	
ANGLESEY	5	2		31					32	26

One at Cosmeston Lakes, **E. GLAMORGAN**, on 27th-31st Dec was darvic ringed (orange Y59) in Worcestershire in Jan 2011.

Breeding season: **CARMARTHEN:** One at Nantgaredig on 31st July. **CAERNARFON/MEIRIONNYDD:** 'Stumpy', an injured bird present in previous years, remained throughout the year around Glaslyn Marshes/Porthmadog Cob.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabilis*
(A) *Rare vagrant, on WRP list.*

GWYDD Y LLAFUR

The first occurrence in Wales since 1996. **ANGLESEY:** Adult and two immatures of the tundra race *A.f. rossicus* at Llyn Coron on 13th-20th Nov, with at least two present on 22nd and a single on 27th.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* GWYDD DROED-BINC
(A) *A scarce and irregular winter visitor, chiefly to north Wales. Subject to hard weather influxes. Spring and summer records relate to feral birds, as may some other records.*

A return to more usual numbers after a bumper 2010, though without counts from Flint, which usually holds a sizeable flock.

All records: **E. GLAMORGAN:** 14 in Kenfig area, 12th Feb-3rd March, is the second largest flock recorded in the county. One with Canada Geese around the Ogmere Est., 16th-25th Oct; **GOWER:** One at Fendrod Lake/Neath Abbey Saltmarsh on 4th, 17th-18th and 27th Dec; **CARMARTHEN:** One at Dryslwyn on 13th Feb, one at Cilsan Bridge on 16th and 22nd March; **PEMBROKE:** One at Newport during 4th-25th March; **CEREDIGION:** 15 at Llanrhystud from 30th Dec 2010 to 3rd Jan, 52 over Cross Inn Forest on 22nd Jan was the largest flock of the year; 37 at Tŷ Gwyn pools on 16th March; **MEIRIONNYDD:** One on the Broadwater on 25th Oct; **CAERNARFON:** One at Caerhun on 22nd Sept; **ANGLESEY:** 15 over Malltraeth on 3rd Jan was the highest count of the year. Three at Llyn Dinam on 29th Jan and 1st March and singles at Cemlyn on 13th Feb and Llyn Traffwll on 23rd April. One around Cemlyn/Hen Borth and on the Alaw estuary during the summer, and at Llyn Bodgylched on 12th Dec. Singles at Penmon on 9th Oct, Inland Sea on 14th Oct, Llyn Cefni on 28th Oct, Llyn Coron on 19th-20th Nov, and two at RAF Valley on 19th Nov; **DENBIGH:** Three at RSPB Conwy, 28th Jan-19th Feb, one there 13th July.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *A. albifrons*

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

(B) *Scarce winter visitor; Ceredigion supports the only regular flock of flavirostris, though this is declining. Rare elsewhere, except occasionally during hard weather. Wales Red-listed.*

The highest number of both races for several years, with a small influx evident in November (when the Anglesey Bean Geese also arrived). A 12% increase in the Ynys-hir flock is welcome following several years of decline.

Greenland White-fronts (*flavirostris*): **GWENT:** One at NWR, 13th Nov into 2012 is only the second county record; **CEREDIGION:** The flock at RSPB Ynys-hir peaked at 63 on 30th March, the day of their departure. The first of the second winter period were 37 on 18th Oct, growing to 48 on 9th Dec, also, 14-16 birds at Cors Fochno in mid Nov; **ANGLESEY:** Six at Llyn Coron on 31st Jan and 3rd Feb with two at same location on

10th Nov.

European White-fronts (*albifrons*): **CEREDIGION**: One at Pont Gogoyan on 27th Nov and 6th Dec; **CAERNARFON**: Eight past Rhos Point on 28th Nov; **ANGLESEY**: 12 at Llyn Coron on 13th-19th Nov, eight here on 22nd. Two at Mallaeth Marsh on 22nd Nov.

Records not sub-specifically reported were: **CARMARTHEN**: Two at Dryslwyn on 13th Nov; **PEMBROKE**: One with two Greylag Geese at Slebech Park on 9th April.

GREYLAG GOOSE *A. anser*

GWYDD WYLLT

(C) A rare winter visitor. Majority of records relate to feral birds, mainly in Caernarfon, Anglesey and Denbigh, but with increasing numbers farther south.

Monthly counts of the large flocks, over 100 at least once:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN												
Caerphilly	115	90	95	55	90	110	75	85	90	130	125	130
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	127	32	49	44	61	116	151	94	71	81	94	87
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	199	150	64							6	200	110
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	32	175	5					156	155	5	122	31

Large counts elsewhere included: **CARMARTHEN**: 210 on the Taf in Sept; **RADNOR**: 93 at Upper Loughor on 29th Aug; **BRECON**: Increased number of records indicate species is now resident; **ANGLESEY**: 104 on the Alaw estuary and 140 at Llyn Coron on 13th Feb, 750 at Llanfaelog on 2nd Aug, 450 at the Alaw estuary on 14th Aug, 200 roosting at Mallaeth Marsh on 14th Nov and 250 at Llyn Coron on 14th Nov.

Breeding was recorded as follows: **GWENT**: 6 pairs raised 32 young at Corus, Llanwern; **E. GLAMORGAN**: A pair bred at Caerphilly Castle moat; **GOWER**: A pair bred at Llanrhidian; **CARMARTHEN**: 11 broods at three sites; **CEREDIGION**: Two pairs; **BRECON**: A bird hybridised with Canada Goose at Llangorse Lake, rearing two young; **RADNOR**: Bred at one site; **MEIRIONNYDD**: The behaviour of a bird in April and a scavenged carcass hinted at possible breeding on the Berwyn Moors; historically, the species was once widespread across upland habitat; **ANGLESEY**: 22 pairs at two sites.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

GWYDD CANADA

(C) A locally common feral breeding resident in most counties, with populations continuing to expand.

Breeding records, presumed under-recorded: **GWENT**: 18 broods at 10 sites; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Five pairs at four sites; **GOWER**: 6-8 pairs at six sites; **CARMARTHEN**: Two sites; **CEREDIGION**: 52-57 pairs at 10 sites, including c.45 pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir; **BRECON**: eight sites; **RADNOR**: 53 pairs, continuing to

increase; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at three sites; **CAERNARFON**: Three pairs at two sites; **ANGLESEY**: 2 sites.

Outside the breeding season, the Dyfi holds the biggest flock, though the counts are lower than in recent years, when up to 3,000 birds have been noted. The number of flocks of more than 100 birds has doubled in the last seven years, hence the threshold for inclusion in the table (below) of systematic site counts has been increased to 300 birds or more recorded at least once during the year:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
NWR	77	211	45	48	50	33	68	39		312	205	231
E. GLAMORGAN												
Ogmore Est	86	17	16	4	30	1	139	324	200	266	100	98
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	200	53	64	4				100	9	20	400	183
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau	450	0	28							388	0	2
Hook	1	1	0							92	64	301
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi	240	330	32					260	560	960	1200	550
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi	1351	178	269	230	303	1236	1603	1420	1416	1863	1046	984
BRECON												
Llangorse	281	310	240	95		380	450	315	17	403	290	360
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrhyd	406	470	25						186	291	178	198
Mawddach			45						232		154	430
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	11	91	27	97	75	387	340	0	5	2	2	4

Large numbers elsewhere included: **E. GLAMORGAN**: 316 in fields at Norton on 7th Sept; **PEMBROKE**: c.1,500 on the Nevern Estuary in Sept; **CEREDIGION**: 335 on Cardigan Island on 13th Aug; **BRECON**: 403 feeding on spring barley at Cathedine Fawr, roosting at Llangorse Lake; **ANGLESEY**: 521 on the Inland Sea on 14th Oct.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

GWYDD WYRAN

(C) A regular winter visitor in recent years to the Dyfi Estuary with smaller numbers at other sites. Most records away from the Dyfi may relate to escapes from captivity. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding: **BRECON**: A pair bred at Llangorse Lake, hatching four young.

The flock on the Dyfi peaked at 305 birds for the second consecutive year, having almost doubled in size in seven years. Approximate monthly totals for each county are tabulated:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN			3-5		2						5	
PEMBROKE*	40			3	3			49		1		52
CEREDIGION												
Ynys-hir	298				4				290	305	305	290
Teifi/Cardigan Is	40		31					22	46		49	52
BRECON		2	3	2	9	4+	4+	4				
MEIRIONNYDD	1	2	1							53		
ANGLESEY	1	1			1				8	6		
Llyn Traffwll	13	14	10	4	1					12		12

In **GWENT**, a single bird again spent the entire year at NWR. The double-figure counts in **PEMBROKE** are birds from the Cardigan Island, **CEREDIGION**, flock.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

GWYDD DDU

(B) A regular wintering population is found in the Burry Inlet and on Anglesey. Elsewhere, small numbers are recorded. Wales Amber-listed.

The peak count of *B.b. bernicla* (dark-breasted) on the Burry Inlet is on an upward curve again after several years of decline, but counts on Y Foryd, **CAERNARFON**, were nil, after several years of steady decline, whereas numbers of *B.b. hrota* (light-breasted) remain strong here.

Monthly max. of *bernicla* (dark-breasted) at the main sites were:

	J	F	M	A		S	O	N	D
GOWER									
Burry (S)	770	525	710	4		10	415	540	490
CARMARTHEN									
Penclacwydd	176	108	51	2		1	8	124	73
Tywi	42	5	17				16		54
Burry Port/Cefn Padrig	23						5	200	

Another count of note was 21 off Sker Point **E. GLAMORGAN** on 1st Jan. Monthly max. of *hrota* (light-breasted) at the main sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
CAERNARFON									
Foryd	25	3	70				250	148	67
Traeth Lafan	26	26	35	35		0	1	23	0
ANGLESEY									
Beddmanarch Bay	177	87	176	113			85	185	257
Inland Sea		152		221	1	9	140		311
Aberlleiniog	26	2	52	40				28	39
Rhosneigr		40	46						
Abermenai	238								317
Cymyran Est.	182	26							

Other records of note: **PEMBROKE**: The flock on the Gann remained until 7th April, peaking at 34 birds, then again from 27th Nov with a peak count of 31. The flock at Angle was present until 7th Feb, peaking at 24 birds, again from 1st Dec peaking at 34 birds; **CEREDIGION**: Max 19 at Ynyslas on 20th and 22nd Nov; **ANGLESEY**: A bird at Beddmanarch Bay on 27th Feb was ringed in Alaska in 2005.

Approximate monthly totals of both subspecies, excluding the main sites, are tabulated:

	<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
<i>bernicla</i>	22	1	8	5	12		1	1		15	43	14
<i>hrota</i>	20	4	4	8					21	54	65	32
unknown	1			1						21	1	11*

* includes a bird at the Gann, **PEMBROKE**, on 25th Dec considered to be a *hrota* x *bernicla* hybrid.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

GWYDD YR AIFFT

(A) *Feral*.

The lowest showing for many years. Are they really on the wane or simply not being reported? The Welsh experience is in sharp contrast to eastern Britain, which is mainly responsible for the WeBS index hitting a record high in 2010/11.

All records were: **E. GLAMORGAN**: Singles were on Kenfig Pool on 15th March, at Cardiff Bay on 24th April, Wilderness Pool, Porthcawl on 15th April and at Ogmores Est from 8th to 23rd Aug; **GOWER**: One at Fendrod Lake on 15th May; **CARMARTHEN**: One at Penclacwydd on 8th April; **PEMBROKE**: One at Bosherton on 10th April.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

(C) *A locally common breeding resident in coastal areas, but rare passage migrant to inland counties. Wales Amber- listed.*

Present in all Welsh estuaries. A slight reduction in wintering numbers (WeBS alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB) over the last decade, though numbers remain higher than in the early 1980s. Low tide counts at Traeth Lafan (Anglesey/Caernarfon) show the mean count falling from 439 in 2002/03 to 305 in 2010/11.

The threshold for inclusion in the table (below) of systematic site counts has been increased from 50 to 100 birds recorded at least once during the year:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Peterstone Gt W			201						59	30	36	1
Peterstone Pill	282	171	115	165	124	237	310	510	420	520	265	230
St Brides	300	20	18	10	13	8	0	24	14	60	280	67
NWR	257	202	137	48	97	151	259	139	660	108	201	299
Undy	261		601	95	96	166	69	33	14	17	150	89
E. GLAMORGAN												
Rumney GW			65			12		20		40	100	100
Rhymney Est		140	122		5	9	13	5		320		60
GOWER												
Burry Inlet	515	630	445	175	75	105	200	25	10	220	425	685
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	326	177	270	174	85	144	31	63	8	121	183	92
Gwendraeth	15	65	69	200	168	166	25		20		33	3
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau	227	225	110							2	35	52
Pembroke R	210	204	179							25	56	0
Carew Cress	291	85	99							0	138	96
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	360	314	229	152	119	98	58	18	11	42	260	269
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrhyd	102	102	52						14	54	32	58
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	463	653	136					23	9	68	143	265
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog	581		129	51	26				4	277		389
Cymyran Est	101	97	45							29	27	32
Malltraeth	400										375	550
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	25	125	106	62	129	14	18	12			4	6

Other peak counts: **ANGLESEY**: 335 at the Braint estuary on 3rd Jan, 67 there on 1st Oct; 62 at the Alaw estuary on 13th March.

Breeding reports: **GWENT**: Five broods at four sites; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Two sites; **GOWER**: Nine broods at seven sites; **CARMARTHEN**: Min. 20 broods at Penclacwydd; **PEMBROKE**: 11 broods at two sites; **CEREDIGION**: Pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir and at the Teifi estuary; **CAERNARFON**: 10 broods at five sites **ANGLESEY**: 6 sites, poor breeding numbers and success reported at Cemlyn.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*
(B) Scarce breeding resident.

HWYADEN GRIBOG

Although now difficult to track numbers, the 11 breeding pairs noted here is the highest to date (and does not include the **DENBIGH** population). The developing pattern

suggests the species is spreading into the southeast from the Forest of Dean population that numbered 250 birds in 2010.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT	7	5	7	6	8	6	5	4	4	7	8	7
GOWER	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
PEMBROKE	1											1
BRECON	4		1	5				1				
MEIRIONNYDD	9		2									

Breeding pairs (not included in table above): **BRECON:** A pair bred at Llysdinam, the first in the county for many years; **RADNOR:** Min. 10 pairs in the Wye and Elan Valleys.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

CHWIIWELL

(C) Common passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor, chiefly to coastal counties. Wales Amber-listed.

Wigeon numbers wintering in Wales trebled from the early 1980s, but have fallen since the middle of the last decade (WeBS alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). The threshold for inclusion in the table (below) of systematic site counts has been increased from 100 to 300 or more birds recorded at least once during the year, reflecting the population increase:

	J	F	M	A	M	Jl	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT											
Peterstone Gt W			8					19	23	305	10
Peterstone Pill	300	160	45	7	5	0	2	20	80	195	240
NWR	1597	1268	541	23	1		7	48	469	970	1042
Undy	166		8					128	612	527	89
Mathern/Black R	600	210	64							148	255
Llandegfedd	416	50							51	140	150
GOWER											
Burry Inlet	765	140	20	2			35	62	765	1490	780
CARMARTHEN											
Pendclacwydd	307	128	57	15	4	4	6	210	464	344	246
Tywi	186		10					72	96	58	340
Taf	339	58							52	209	
Dinefwr Ponds	316	147	100	3				2	114	119	150
PEMBROKE											
Cleddau Est.	672	340	67						22	103	262
Angle Bay	516	51	56						20	1800	0
Pembroke River	97	27	12						6976	4670	0
Carew Cresswell	512	550	70						114	604	350
Castlemartin	600	35	6						0	0	44

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi Est	240	184	56						43	390	322	164
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	1060	237	60	24					91	1100	1081	2130
Cors Caron	315	217	40		2					48	106	
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	270	250				5			36	162		310
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	627	509	174						282	841	1123	1237
Mawddach			3						116		294	392
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan			400								75	500+
Foryd Bay	968	466	68						4	244	857	1032
Porthmadog				2				5			650	
ANGLESEY												
Alaw Estuary		291	197								377	386
Cymyran St.	112	34	35						34	125	385	236
Dulas	271										746	17

Other significant count: **ANGLESEY**: 710 at the Braint estuary on 1st Oct.

Breeding season records: **CEREDIGION**: 11 birds at five sites but breeding not suspected; **ANGLESEY**: No confirmed records but a pair at Llyn Llywenan on 30th April, a male at Llyn Maelog on 9th May and a pair at Llyn Penrhyn on 17th Aug.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

HWYADEN LWYD

(C) Regular breeding bird in small numbers on Anglesey, and has bred in at least two other counties. Elsewhere a regular winter visitor to most counties in small numbers. Wales Amber-listed.

In line with other parts of the UK, wintering Gadwall in Wales increased markedly, by almost 300% since the early 1980s, though the trend during the last five years is down and most sites hold fewer than 20 individuals (WeBS Alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). Monthly max. (20 or more) at the main sites are tabulated as available.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
NWR	55	98	44	12	5	4		4	17	74	69	73
Corus Llanwern	12	12	10	11	4	4	8	12	40		5	2
E. GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig	38	26	16	2				1	1	2	31	22
GOWER												
Oxwich Lake	105	67	21	12	3	1	4		30	26	49	52
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	204	92	47	28	65	81	83	82	45	28	88	59
Dinefwr Ponds	2	21	12							1	17	9

PEMBROKE												
Bosherton	42	38	0						5	0	29	
Freshwaters	41	35	5						26	16	36	
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	8	22	6	5	4				5	10	11	5

Other counts include: **GOWER**: 39 at Llanrhidian on 18th Jan and 26 there on 2nd Feb, 63 at Oxwich Bay on 29th Jan, 25 at Fairwood Lodge Lake on 19th Oct; **CARMARTHEN**: 64 at Ashpits Pond on 10th Sept and c.80 there on 23rd Nov; **ANGLESEY**: 22 at Traeth Crigyll on 19th June, but generally fewer birds than usual.

Breeding season: **GWENT**: Two pairs bred at Corus Llanwern steelworks, raising 13 young; **GOWER**: Bred at Oxwich Lake; **CARMARTHEN**: Min. 12 broods at Penclacwydd; **PEMBROKE**: Bred near Pembroke; **BRECON**: Courtship at Llangorse Lake in May and July records may indicate local breeding; **ANGLESEY**: Bred at Llyn Hafodol and Llyn Cefni. There were 4 pairs on Llyn Maelog on 9th May,

Gadwall has been removed from the list of species considered by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (*Brit. Birds* 104: 486) as the UK population has increased to almost 1,700 pairs, mostly in England. However, the breeding population in Wales remains small, and birdwatchers are urged to report all breeding season records to their county recorder.

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca*

CORHWYADEN

(C) *Small numbers breed in most counties, otherwise a widespread and abundant winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber-listed.*

Breeding season records: **CEREDIGION**: Breeding records received were of a female with five ducklings at Llyn Conach on 9th June and six adults and three ducklings at Llyn Fyrddon Fach on 29th June. In addition during the breeding season two pairs were at Glandwr, Cors Fochno on 1st and 11th May, a pair was at Tŷ Gwyn pools on 31st May and a pair was at Llyn Gynon on 1st July.

Wintering Teal numbers have fallen in recent years, though this may be part of the long-term fluctuation monitored by WeBS (BTO/JNCC/RSPB), which saw their numbers fall by 40% between the mid 1980s and '90s, before recovering. As the number of sites with flocks of more than 100 birds doubled to 40 in 2009, the threshold for inclusion in the table (below) of systematic site counts has been increased to 300 or more birds recorded at least once during the year:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Peterstone/Went.	280	140	76	49	0	3	1	10	80	58	155	425
NWR	467	558	124	58	1	7	35	85	90	157	434	691
Mathern/Black R	310	65									3	110
GOWER												
Burry Inlet	535	95	160	5				25	110	210	485	100
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	441	139	25	4	5	5	11	46	123	94	670	17
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	519	700	264							143	503	189
Carew Cresswell	425	360	98							125	440	225
Hook	350	303	204							79	294	576
E. Cleddau	497	216	64							19	450	1500
Freshwaters	325	146	66							240	153	178
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	461	138	96	14	5			28	143	1264	949	782
Cors Caron	393	230	98							598	675	
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	540	443	318						96	579	565	657
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	342	100	31	6	0	0	28	63	126	295	256	362

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

CORHWYADEN ASGELL WERDD

(A) Vagrant from North America, on WRP list.

All males, all considered to be returning individuals: **GWENT**: A bird at Peterstone Wentlooge from 25th March to 4th April is presumed to be the one seen at Goldcliff in 2010; **PEMBROKE**: Records at Sprinkle Pill on 16th Jan, at Marloes Mere from 12th Feb to 2nd May and at Penberi Res. on 6th-7th May were considered to be the same individual.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

HWYADEN WYLLT

(C) Common and widespread breeding resident, abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Wales Amber-listed.

The long-term decline in wintering Mallards in Britain has been well-reported, and the trend in Wales is similar though not so substantial: the WeBS Alert index has fallen by 29% in the last 25 years (BTO/JNCC/RSPB), with numbers down to mid 1980s level. However, the number of sites with counts of 100 or more birds has been increasing, so the threshold for inclusion in the table (below) of systematic site counts has been increased to 200 or more birds recorded at least once during the year:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Peterstone Pill	120	80	35	44	57	102	50	175	180	134	240	213
NWR	424	203	101	99	138	180	177	245	294	613	213	301
Undy	404	65	33	79	97		66	73	115	123	127	533
Llandegfedd	220	50	10							75	103	180
GOWER												
Burry (S)	30			4	2		50	40	295	80	35	30
Gnoll Ponds	144	77	77	40	88	165	212	109	152	145	146	163
Upper Loughor	5		7	2	38	185	64	290	68	8	8	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	436	207	77	73	74	181	135	250	56	121	167	173
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est	274	145	139							207	377	243
Freshwaters	309	127	148							352	131	191
St David's	195	146	0							251		227
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	158	230	168	155	103	66	98	248	188	434	323	344
Cors Caron	293	161	78							374	296	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	319	246	159					41	282	244	219	261
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	87	15	13	12	28	52	80	68	105	221	40	39

Other peak counts: **GWENT**: A survey of Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal from Pontywaun to Llanover suggested a winter population of around 750 birds; **CARMARTHEN**: 349 on the Taf in Sept; **BRECON**: 212 at Brecon Canal Basin on 8th Jan; **MONTGOMERY**: 130 on Lake Vyrnwy on 21st Oct.

Breeding season, under-recorded: **GWENT**: 50 pairs recorded; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Confirmed at 29 sites and possible at a further 20; **GOWER**: 47 broods at 37 sites; **CARMARTHEN**: Min. 37 broods at three sites; **CEREDIGION**: Eight pairs; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at three sites; **CAERNARFON**: Six broods on Bardsey, but all failed to fledge; **ANGLESEY**: Bred at four sites but poor survival rate reported from Cemlyn.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

(B) *Occasional passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor to some counties, but scarce inland. Wales Amber-listed.*

Following a long-term increase (230% increase in the WeBS index since 1981/82; BTO/JNCC/RSPB), numbers wintering in Wales have started to fall in recent years. For example, the peak winter count in Gwent was 35% lower in 2011 than a decade ago. Monthly max. at the main wintering sites, holding 50 or more at least once, are tabulated as available.

	J	F	M	A	M		A	S	O	N	D
GWENT											
Peterstone Pill	88	86	58	4				29	147	60	116
P'stone Gt W	120		10					2	9	26	29
E. GLAMORGAN											
Rhymney Est		64	40						32		
GOWER											
Burry Inlet	1600	985	50	2				247	1060	1170	1160
CARMARTHEN											
Penclacwydd	647	106	26	12	2		7	3	252	495	2030
Gwendraeth	114	153						76	240	106	28
Taf	34	62								36	
CEREDIGION											
Dyfi Est.	168	22	11	6				8	83	143	180
MEIRIONNYDD											
Glaslyn/Dwy.	151	10	13					3	112	30	186
CAERNARFON											
Traeth Lafan	107	126	33				0	20	53	92	82
ANGLESEY											
Malltraeth	210			1				18	24	165	195
Traeth Melynog	257										102

Other notable records include: **CARMARTHEN**: One at Penclacwydd in June; **PEMBROKE**: A flock at Sprinkle Pill in Jan-Feb peaked at 59 on 13th Jan.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

HWYADEN ADDFAIN

(A) Recorded in small numbers on passage. Although probable breeding is more frequent, there have been only five confirmed Welsh breeding attempts and only one since 1991. Wales Amber-listed.

The 30 birds reported here is at the bottom end of average for recent years. At 45 birds, 2009 is the best recent year.

All records were: **GWENT**: Males at Peterstone Pill on 9th and 14th April. and NWR on 7th-8th May; **E. GLAMORGAN**: A male on Kenfig Pool, 6th-16th Aug; **GOWER**: Imm. female at Oxwich Marsh during 22nd-24th July, female-type near Broad Pool on 1st Sept; **CARMARTHEN**: All at Penclacwydd: three (two males) on 20th March, one male remaining to 22nd; male on 11th May; female on 4th July; one throughout Aug, increasing to two on 27th and three on 1st-15th Sept; **PEMBROKE**: A pair at Marloes Mere from 19th to 25th April, a female on Skomer on 1st May, a male on Skomer on 18th May and a juv. at Bosherton during 31st July-23rd Aug; **CEREDIGION**: A pair at RSPB Ynys-hir on 26th-28th April, one at Glandwr on 10th May; **RADNOR**: Male at Llanbwchlllyn in July; **CAERNARFON**: Male at Morfa Madryn, 11th-20th April; **ANGLESEY**: Males on Malltraeth Cob Pool on 10th April, Llyn Traffwll on 1st May and Llyn Coron and Llyn Trefflesg on 3rd May. One at Llyn Cefni on 23rd Aug and two here from 24th Aug to 15th Sept.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*
(A) *Vagrant, on BBRC list.*

CORHWYADEN ASGELL-LAS

A first-summer male at Sandy W. P. **CARMARTHEN** from 20th March to 11th April and then Penclacwydd, 16th April to 1st May was the first Welsh record since 2005.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

(C) *Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant. Regular breeding species on Anglesey and occasionally elsewhere in Wales. Wales Amber-listed.*

In the breeding season: **PEMBROKE**: A pair nested on Skomer, but no young seen; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred on the Broadwater, with a family party seen on 28th July; **ANGLESEY**: Male at Llyn Parc Mawr on 22nd May and female at Cemlyn on 17th June and 3rd Aug, but no breeding confirmed.

Wintering Shoveler numbers have been increasing across Britain, but the trend in Wales is even greater, with a 129% increase in the WeBS Alert index (BTO/JNCC/RSPB), though the population has levelled out in recent years. However, in recent years, the number of sites with 50 or more birds, included in the table below, has greatly reduced. Small groups were widely distributed elsewhere.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Peterstone Pill	136	68	9	2	0	0	0	49	11	80	173	360
NWR	71	97	43	23	8	2		2	65	197	113	120
GOWER												
Burry (S)	800	140							50	35		
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	178	135	33	8	7	2	6	25	35	41	177	91

Elsewhere: **ANGLESEY**: 50 at RSPB Valley Lakes on 27th Feb.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*
(A) *Feral.*

HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

All records were: **CAERNARFON**: A female at Pont Solomon, Pwllheli, on 27th Feb and a male at Morfa Conwy on 22nd Sept.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

(C) *Resident breeding species in small numbers in several counties, otherwise a locally common winter visitor, chiefly to southern coastal counties and passage migrant. Wales Red-listed.*

Pochard numbers wintering in Britain have fallen dramatically in recent decades, a trend reflected in Wales, with numbers at their lowest since monitoring began in the mid 1960s (WeBS Alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). This trend is reported from The Netherlands, suggesting that this may be one of the species for which 'short-stopping'

is occurring rapidly, with fewer birds needing to travel to the western edge of Europe. However, a cold snap in Europe can increase numbers, as illustrated in **GWENT** and **E. GLAMORGAN** in Jan-Feb 2011. Monthly max. at the main wintering sites, holding 20 or more at least once, are tabulated as available.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
NWR	11	27	100	4	9	5	4	2	1	24	23	16
Ynysfro Res.	80	138	16				1	1	2	4	33	23
Wentwood Res.	56	20								8	48	122
E. GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park Lake	41	29	9									
Cosmeston	400	130	90							15	1	9
Kenfig NNR	123	132	2	1					15	39	100	123
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd	57	23	45	1	1	1	5	9	8	15	2	2
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	19	10	11	10	10	11	12	4	8	6	29	6
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	28	36	51	2					0	2	36	23

Other peak counts: **GWENT**: 46 at Cwmbrian Boating Lake in Feb; **PEMBROKE**: 33 at Pembroke Mill Pond on 6th Jan; **CAERNARFON**: 25 at Foryd on 23rd Oct; **ANGLESEY**: 150 on Llyn Penrhyn on 1st Jan, 30 at Valley Lakes on 27th Feb, 98 at Llyn Cefni on 14th Oct and 74 on Llyn Coron on 1st Dec.

Breeding season: **GWENT**: Two broods at NWR; **CARMARTHEN**: Four broods at Penclacwydd; **ANGLESEY**: A pair on Yr-allt Pool, Rhosneigr on 30th May and bred at Llyn Cefni.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

HWYADEN DORCHOG

(A) Rare visitor from North America, on WRP list.

All records: **CARMARTHEN**: A female was at Llyn Pencarreg 22nd Oct 2010 into 2011 then relocated to Talley, 18th Jan - 7th March. There was one, presumed the same, at Penclacwydd on 22nd April; **PEMBROKE**: The returning female was at Bosherton from 8th Jan to 24th March.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

HWYADEN GOPOG

(C) Resident breeding species in small numbers in several Welsh counties and a locally common winter visitor. Wales Amber-listed.

Wintering numbers in Wales remain stable (WeBS Alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB), though the number of sites holding 50 or more birds at least once during the year increased in 2011.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
NWR	87	110	109	52	60	35	15	42	19	46	125	38
Wentwood.	110	142	26	17			3	6	18	40	80	227
Ynysfro Res	72	48	39	21	4	18	51	62	35	62	76	76
Corus, Llanwern	10	90	74	37	11		1					
Ponthir Res.	60	15					3	10	72	59		
Bryn Bach	40	65	46									59
E. GLAMORGAN												
Lisvane Res	55	39	41	28	6	11	50	164	48	74	46	65
Roath Park L.	80	66	62	21	9		3				28	
Cardiff Bay	500	131	50	18			6		28	41	8	9
Cosmeston	300	423	90	20	5	6	12	32	30	65	37	149
Kenfig NNR	206	216	48	2	3				58	20	80	38
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd R.	282	118	229	34	6	6	97	143	137	121	30	68
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	87	73	64	78	88	44	12	16	27	46	77	82
Talley	50	51	52						12	23	50	22
PEMBROKE												
Freshwaters	87	107	3							8	4	4
Bosherton	100	92	18							0	0	3
BRECON												
Llangorse	195	102	93	38					52	147	289	260
Talybont	13	2	4	8					62	74	43	30
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Cefni		70		74						265		117

Other peak counts: **GWENT**: 54 at Dunlop Semtex Pond in August; **PEMBROKE**: 152 at Pembroke Mill Pond on 7th Jan; **MEIRIONNYDD**: A county record 141 at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 22nd Dec; **ANGLESEY**: 50 at Llyn Penrhyn on 13th Feb and 100 at RSPB Valley Lakes on 28th Aug.

Breeding: **GWENT**: Nine broods at five sites; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Seven broods at four sites, and possibly bred at a further five sites; **GOWER**: 3-4 broods at three sites; **CARMARTHEN**: Min. 16 broods at Penclacwydd; **CEREDIGION**: Bred at five sites, with pairs at two others; **BRECON**: Bred at two sites, and possibly at one other; **RADNOR**: Five pairs bred successfully; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at Llyn Trawsfynydd; **ANGLESEY**: Bred at four sites; also summered at Cemlyn.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

HWYADEN BENDDU

(B) Scarce and local winter visitor, also recorded on passage. Wales Amber-listed.

Never abundant in Wales, particularly compared to Northern Ireland, Scaup numbers remain way below their peak of the mid 1990s (WeBS Alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). However, the Burry Inlet count in Jan was the highest since 2005, and took the all-Wales peak count to 59 that month, coming off the back of 69 in Dec 2010.

	J	F	M	A	M		J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT			1									2
E. GLAMORGAN	4		10								2	2
GOWER Burry Inlet	18	9	11									
Elsewhere	10	5	3	2								
CARMARTHEN					1			1				
PEMBROKE	7	5	2				1					2
CEREDIGION				1	1							
BRECON Llangorse				1							1	
MEIRIONNYDD	1		10						1			1
CAERNARFON	18	19										2
ANGLESEY Inland Sea	1	1									2	1
Elsewhere		2	1								2	

An immature male at Castle Pond, **PEMBROKE**, in July was unseasonal, though not unprecedented.

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

HWYADEN BENDDU LEIAF

(A) *Rare vagrant from North America, on BBRC list.*

E. GLAMORGAN: The returning drake, which first appeared in Dec 2008, was at Cardiff Bay, 1st-8th Jan, then at Cosmeston Lakes from 16th Jan to 22nd March, and back at Cardiff Bay on 2nd April. It was again at Cosmeston Lakes on 28th Dec and then at Cardiff Bay on 29th; **GOWER:** A female at Eglwys Nunydd Res. from 16th Feb to 6th March is presumed to be same as 2010.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

(C) *Generally scarce non-breeding resident and winter visitor. Wintering numbers fell dramatically in early 1990s and have fluctuated since. Breeding took place for the first time in 1997. Wales Amber-listed.*

The peak winter counts at both Burry Inlet and Penmon are the highest to date, but no reports of breeding were received. The monthly max. in the principal wintering sites:

		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GOWER	Burry (S)	130	85	130	135	50	45	40	95	10	50	70	90
MEIRIONNYDD	Broadwater	7	8	14				26	52	63	52	26	
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	22	9	14			5		2	0	1	2	8
ANGLESEY	Penmon / Puffin I.	2	6	52	28		11				1	10	

Other notable records: **GWENT:** Six at West Pill on 13th May were the first in the county since 2003; **CARMARTHEN:** 32 off Burry Port on 20th Oct; **CEREDIGION:** A female overwintered at Ynyslas from 1st Nov to March 2012; **ANGLESEY:** 26 at Aberlleiniog in April.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

HWYADEN GYNFFON-HIR

(B) Increasingly scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare inland. Wales Amber-listed.

Land-based records are of limited value, and although the numbers below are higher than in recent years, the long-term outlook is not good, with a 65% decline in the Baltic Sea (since 1992/93) contributing to a revision of the species' global status to Vulnerable.

Summary of records for each county:

	J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN							1	2	
GOWER			1					1	
CARMARTHEN							1	2	
CEREDIGION									1
MEIRIONNYDD	3					2			1
CAERNARFON	4	3							
ANGLESEY	1	1							

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

MOR-HWYADEN DDU

(C) A locally abundant visitor, recorded all year round but mainly during the winter months. The distribution is predominantly coastal, although it is regular in small numbers on inland waters on passage. Subject to occasional one-off increases (e.g. 1976/77 and 2004/05). Wales Amber-listed.

Recorded off all coastal counties, counts from the main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GOWER												
Rhossili/Worms	6250										500	
CARMARTHEN/PEMBROKE												
Carmarthen Bay	7354	1744								1700		520
CEREDIGION												
Borth	220				12		34	18				
CAERNARFON												
Black Rock/Cricc.	200	610										
Llanfairfechan	200+		113	2						280		
Penmaenmawr	300		230+								150	
ANGLESEY			26	45	6	8	14	80	15	6	5	23

Other records: **PEMBROKE**: 240 males past Strumble Head on 9th Sept, 140 at Broadhaven on 20th Nov; **CEREDIGION**: 100 at Wallog on 19th Jan; **MEIRIONNYDD**: 2,020 off Morfa Harlech on 13th Nov, 510 at Artro on 20th Nov, 200 off Tonfanau on 15th Nov; **CAERNARFON**: 133 past Little Orme on 7th Oct; **ANGLESEY**: 105 birds past Cemlyn during April-June, 119 during July-Sept. Note that the the huge flock reported off the **DENBIGH** coast will be included in next year's Report.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*

MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

(A) A rare trans-Atlantic visitor to Wales, on WRP list.

DENBIGH: Two males off Old Colwyn/Llanddulas, 6th-18th March, and again from 6th Nov into 2012. These are assumed to be two out of the three males which wintered in the same area in 2010.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

(A) A scarce and local winter visitor, regular in small numbers to some coastal counties. Occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Amber-listed.

A modest year, with numbers two-thirds down on the previous year's peak, though the totals below do not include records from the huge Scoter flock off the **DENBIGH** coast. The peak month was traditionally November, but this seems to be shifting to later in the winter.

All records: **GOWER:** Six off Aberavon Beach on 9th Jan, two south of the Neath estuary on 17th Jan, one off Snaple Point on 4th Dec; **PEMBROKE:** A pair at Broadhaven during 3rd-9th Jan, a female there on 20th Nov and 1st Dec; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Six off Harlech on 21st Jan, three there on 31st and one on 28th Feb, six off Mochras on 28th Feb and four off the Dysynni on 13th Nov; **CAERNARFON:** One off Penmaenmawr on 21st Jan, one at Black Rock on 30th Jan; **ANGLESEY:** One off Traeth Llugwy from 11th-31st Dec at least.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

(C) Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant, with an increasing number of individuals summering on inland lakes.

The downward trend that started in the late 1990s continues, with a 38% decline in Wales in the last ten years (BTO/JNCC/RSPB). The WeBS Alert index shows a return to the numbers wintering during the 1970s. As with Pochard, it seems that the Goldeneye's core wintering range has shifted northeast, with a marked increase (300%) in numbers wintering in Sweden.

Monthly max. counts at the main sites, holding 10 or more at least once, were:

	J	F	M	A	M		S	O	N	D
E.GLAMORGAN										
Ogmore Est	11	3	1						5	16
Kenfig NNR	13	18	23						3	4
GOWER										
Eglwys Nunydd	55	40	71	22				4	11	13
CARMARTHEN										
Penclacwydd	16	4	3					1	1	1
Gwendraeth	18	12							1	11
PEMBROKE										
Bosherston	22	19	0						3	6
CEREDIGION										
Dyfi Est	27	11	4						3	9

BRECON										
Llangorse Lake	48	65	57	9				13	71	63
Talybont Res.	7	16	12	37			3	3	9	5
MEIRIONNYDD										
Llyn Tegid	18	10	10						6	7
CAERNARFON										
Traeth Lafan	91	65	2					0	0	2

Other counts: **GWENT**: 10 on the Usk at Llanllowel in Jan; **E. GLAMORGAN**: One at Cardiff heliport on 10th June was an unusual summer record; **GOWER**: 14 at the Breakwater, Burry Inlet, on 4th Jan and Dalton's Point on 18th, 11 south of Loughor Bridge on 24th Jan; **PEMBROKE**: 10 at the Gann on 30th Jan; **ANGLESEY**: 47 on the Inland Sea on 8th Feb, but counts generally lower than usual.

SMEW *Mergus albellus*

LLEIAN WEN

(A) Scarce winter visitor, subject to cold weather influxes from the Continent. Wales Amber-listed.

All records were redheads: **CEREDIGION**: Two at Ynyslas on 3rd Jan was first county record since 1998; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One at Mochras from 2nd Jan to 28th Feb; **ANGLESEY**: A redhead on Llyn Penrhyn on 19th-22nd Feb.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *M. serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

(C) Locally common winter visitor, particularly to the north Wales coast. Small numbers breed, chiefly around the northwest coast. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding season, presumed under-recorded: **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at Llyn Trawsfynydd; **CAERNARFON**: A brood at Foryd, plus birds present at three other sites; **ANGLESEY**: Three broods at Cemlyn.

Following a steady increase in the early 1990s, numbers recorded by WeBS have fallen sharply, and the index for both Britain and Wales now lies at low levels not seen since the late 1980s (BTO/JNCC/RSPB). Monthly max. at the main sites, with 20 or more recorded at least once, are tabulated.

	J	F	M.	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GOWER												
Burry (S)	10	5	30	5							3	5
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth	50	12	4								4	34
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	38	35	24	9	8	2	6	2	14	10	10	20
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	1	9	15						5	31	20	9
Mawddach			22								22	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	17	0	88			3	65	202	29	59	15	20
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	15	1	7	26	1		2	1	14	11	6	6

Large counts elsewhere included: **GOWER**: 30 at Wernffrwd East on 19th March; **PEMBROKE**: 21 at Amroth/Wisemans Bridge on 18th Dec; **BRECON**: 42 on the River Wye at Glasbury on 2nd May were 75% male, suggesting a gathering prior to moult migration to northern Norway; **CAERNARFON**: 20 at Penychain on 1st Jan, 20+ off Rhos Point on 16th Jan and 20 at Penmaenmawr in Nov.

GOOSANDER *M. merganser*

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

(C) Breeding resident on most Welsh rivers in mid and north Wales, the breeding population slowly expanding. In winter, numbers are augmented by birds dispersing from farther north.

After hitting a peak in 2000, numbers monitored by WeBS have fallen to levels not seen since the early 1990s (BTO/JNCC/RSPB). Most Goosanders wintering in Wales are thought to be British breeders, but no recent data is available on breeding numbers. Monthly max. at the main sites, holding 20 or more at least once, are tabulated.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	15										51	64
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	18	1	2	20			2	30	2	1	2	5
PEMBROKE												
Bosherston	60	22	6								10	15
Llys y fran Res.	20	2	3									
BRECON												
Llangorse	47	62	51	12							8	63
Talybont	41	5	27	13					20	18	13	18
MEIRIONNYDD												
Llyn Tegid	4	4	10					38	23	10	4	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1							98	5	1		1

Other records: **GWENT**: 25 at Llantarnam in Jan and 28 at Cwmbran Boating Lake in Nov; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 24 on Dowlais Pools, Merthyr on 13th Dec was the highest count since 2007; **CEREDIGION**: 26 on frozen Teifi at Maescrugiau on 1st Jan.

Breeding season: **GWENT**: 5-6 broods on the River Usk; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Bred for the first time in 2010, but not repeated in 2011; **GOWER**: Broods on the R. Tawe and R. Neath; **CARMARTHEN**: Broods at four sites on the Tywi and at one on the Cothi; **CEREDIGION**: Confirmed at 3 sites, all in the Rheidol catchment area; **BRECON**: Suspected or confirmed at 13 sites; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Confirmed at one site and pairs present in suitable habitat at six other sites; **CAERNARFON**: Two broods on Llyn Padarn, a pair at another site.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

HWYADEN GOCH

(B) Rare breeding species, restricted to a small number on Anglesey by culling; elsewhere a scarce winter visitor.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN	5	1										
GOWER	3											
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Alaw	2	4										1
Llyn Penrhyn				3	5	2	1	1	4		3	4
Llyn Cefni								1				
Llyn Traffwll											4	

The UK Ruddy Duck population is thought to be around 60 birds (April 2012), from an estimated 4,400 in September 2005, as a result of an eradication programme by Defra, part of an EU wide project to remove the threat to White-headed Ducks in Europe by 2015. The last two years have seen the lowest peak counts since the 1970s. The table above suggests that a maximum of 4 pairs remain on **ANGLESEY** (most birds reported were females), while the birds at Kenfig, **E. GLAMORGAN**, in Jan were perhaps a cold weather movement from the English Midlands. No breeding was reported in Wales for the third successive year.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

GRUGIAR

(B) Breeding resident on heather uplands, declining in most areas. Wales Red-listed.

Presumed under-recorded. **GWENT**: More reports than usual. A survey of targeted areas in the north of the county in Jan/Feb found 65 birds. Later in the year, coveys included eight at Mynydd Varteg Fach in July, eight on the Blorenge in the summer, 40 during a shoot on Hatterall Hill on 25th Aug, 30 birds on the Sugar Loaf on 18th Sept and six on Mynydd Maen in Oct; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Three birds at one site on 10th April; **CARMARTHEN**: Recorded at one site on eight dates, max eight birds on 28th Sept; **CEREDIGION**: Two on Pumlumon on 6th Dec; **BRECON**: Present during April-June at 6 sites in the Black Mountains, but no confirmed breeding. Also at Fan Frynach in breeding season, and from four sites in the autumn; **RADNOR**: Considered to be widespread and increasing as a result of reduced grazing of heather moorland and some increased gamekeeping; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Recorded from many sites in the Berwyn, including a covey of 8 at Sirior and a female with a brood of 9 chicks at Hirnant, but considered to be decreasing even here. There were a smaller number of records from other upland areas such as the Migneint, Rhinogau and the Arenigs; **CAERNARFON**: Recorded at six sites, but coveys only from Cefn Du (four on 23rd April) and Tal-y-fan (three on 7th Oct).

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix*

GRUGIAR DDU

(C) Breeding resident on moorlands of north and mid-Wales, recent increase in numbers. Wales Red-listed.

RSPB Cymru surveys found 328 lekking males within Wales' Black Grouse monitoring areas, principally in **MEIRIONYDD** and **DENBIGH** (per Amy Challis). There were 19

lekking males at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy **MONTGOMERY** between 15th April and 15th May and 5 females was a record reserve count.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

(C) *Populations in most areas where this species is found are probably maintained by releases for shooting.*

GWENT: Reported mainly in coastal areas, with up to 8 at Collister Pill/West Pill; **E. GLAMORGAN:** A pair bred at Tai-mawr Farm, Lisvane, with reports of 1-2 birds from 9 sites; **GOWER:** Scarce, single at Sketty in Feb; **CARMARTHEN:** One at Whitland on 28th March; **PEMBROKE:** Three records of 1-3 birds; **CEREDIGION:** One at Trisant on 10th April; **BRECON:** The highest count of 50 in the Maestorglwyd/Blaendigeddi area above Tregoyd Estate on 16th Nov was part of a release of 10,000 birds in Aug; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Two on the Hen Dŵr track on the Berwyn on 13th April; **ANGLESEY:** Widespread reports, highest counts were 25 near the Alaw estuary in Jan/Feb and 20 at Mynachdy on 25th Nov.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

PETRISEN

(B) *Almost extinct as a breeding species in much of Wales. Populations in most areas where this species is found are probably maintained by releases for shooting. Wales Red-listed.*

GWENT: Singles at Pen-y-lan on 2nd May and at Sudbrook on 10th July; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Pairs in suitable habitat at three sites in spring. Coveys of 10 at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm on 2nd Jan and 9 there on 23rd Oct and 6 at East Aberthaw on 5th Nov; **CEREDIGION:** Three at Aberarth on 1st Jan and a released bird at Llandre on 18th April; **RADNOR:** A small number of birds released at shoots; **CAERNARFON:** Three at Rowen on 13th Aug and a pair at Dwygyfylchi GC on 7th Oct; **ANGLESEY:** Small numbers in the southwest and around shooting estates at Rhoscolyn and Talwrn.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

SOFLIAR

(A) *A scarce and irregular breeding species, irruptive in some years; scarce passage migrant. Wales Amber-listed.*

GOWER: Two near Paviland on 26th-27th June and one at Pontrhydyfan on 3rd July; **CARMARTHEN:** One at Llangadog on 5th June, one found injured at Penygroes on 3rd July; **PEMBROKE:** One at Haycastle on 6th June, two at Pantgwyn on 22nd June, singles at Slebech Park on 29th June and 5th July and at Panemaenog on 22nd July and three near Brawdy during 28th-30th Aug; **CEREDIGION:** One at Cwmystwyth on 4th May, one, possibly two, at Cors Fochno on 20th May with one flushed there on 29th, singles at RSPB Ynys-hir on 7th June and at Cribyn on 19th June; **BRECON:** Singles at Pennorth on 14th June and near Sarnau on 12th July; **RADNOR:** 11 calling birds at 6 sites in May and June; **CAERNARFON:** Single calling males on Bardsey on 4th May and at Pwllheli on 3rd July; **ANGLESEY:** Singles at Point Lynas on 12th June, Cerrigceinwen on 14th June and near Llyn Coron on 23rd June.

Additional records 2010: **GWENT:** A bird sang all day and night at Llanfair Kilgeddin on 5th July 2010 and what was presumed to be the same individual was heard again

from 16th July. The field was cut with a combine harvester on 12th Aug, flushing an adult and 10 chicks which were barely able to fly. A nearby field nearby was cut on 2nd Sept 2010, disturbing five birds, presumably part of the above group.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

FFESANT

(D) A locally common breeding resident, widespread throughout Wales.

The population in many areas is maintained by releases, but few records are included in county reports.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

(B) Winter visitor and passage migrant, regularly recorded off-shore, sometimes in large concentrations. Rare inland. Wales Amber-listed.

Approx. monthly totals at the main sites, with 10 or more birds at least once:

	J	F	M	A	M		J	A	S	O	N	D
GOWER												
Baglan Bay	36	7										
Oxwich Bay	43											1
Other	22	4	3						1	1	6	12
PEMBROKE												
County excluding Strumble	54	23	31						0	1	2	70
Off Strumble	6	5	4						10	14	9	113
CEREDIGION												
Borth Bay	186			1				1		70	7	
Llansantffraed-Aberaeron	47	50	20						1			4
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	34	1										
CAERNARFON												
Seiont-Llyfni estuaries	25	47	30	80					2	1		
Penmaenmawr	6		11								6	
Rhos Point	7										16	1
Traeth Lafan	26	12+	97							2	21	2
ANGLESEY												
Passage birds off headlands							0	2	34	50	16	120

Other counts were: **CARMARTHEN**: 27 off Amroth and 22 off Pendine on 8th Jan; **PEMBROKE**: Max count was 60 at Amroth on 18th Dec with the highest count of 34 at Strumble on the same date; **CEREDIGION**: 32 off Aberystwyth on 9th Jan and 12 on 23rd, 33 at Aberystwyth on 17th Dec; **ANGLESEY**: 35 were off Red Wharf Bay on the 2nd March and 50 off Cemlyn on 18th Dec.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

(A) Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Amber-listed.

E. GLAMORGAN: There was one off Porthcawl seafront on 28th Dec; **GOWER:** One off Blackpill on 19th Oct and one past Overton Cliff on 5th Nov, later found on sea from Common Cliff; **PEMBROKE:** In St. Brides Bay up to two birds were reported on six dates in January and February with the last record here one on 1st March. There was one off Strumble Head on 26th Feb. At the other end of the year one in Ramsey Sound 15th Sept with two there on 27th Dec and one in Fishguard Harbour on 22nd Nov. A total of 13 birds were recorded passing Strumble Head on 9 different dates, max three on 18th Dec; **CEREDIGION:** One was at Aberarth on 14th March, two at Llansantffraed on 21st April and one, in breeding plumage, seen flying north at Ynyslas on 2nd May. Singles were recorded in November at Ynyslas on 4th and Aberystwyth on 30th; **CAERNARFON:** There was one off Llanfairfechan on 22nd Feb. A single bird was seen on Bardsey on 10th May, with the same or another on 12th and then on 22nd, all records possibly relating to the same first-summer individual; **ANGLESEY:** One was at The Range, on 12th Feb, and one in Holyhead Fishquay and Bay on 1st Nov. One flew west past Point Lynas on 15th Dec, and there was an adult close inshore off Traeth Llugwy on 28th Dec. There were 2 in Holyhead Harbour from 27th-31st Dec.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

TROCHYDD MAWR

(B) Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers. Recorded from inland waters more frequently than other diver species. Wales Amber-listed.

Approx. monthly totals for each county:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	S	O	N	D
E.GLAMORGAN					6			1		2
GOWER	12	3	1						3	9
CARMARTHEN	3	2	1					1	2	2
PEMBROKE	8	9	10	3	1		1	3	7	5
CEREDIGION	1	1	2	1			3	1	5	4
MEIRIONNYDD	2		13							
CAERNARFON										
Llyfni-Seiont	4	5	43	9						
Traeth Lafan	1	2	2				0	0	1	6
Bardsey	1			4	1		1	4	8	12
Elsewhere	3	1			1		6	11	2	2
ANGLESEY	6	5	2	1	3			4	2	25

A total of 28 birds passed Strumble Head **PEMBROKE** on 11 dates, max 9 on 20th Dec.

Records on freshwater were **E. GLAMORGAN:** One on Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir from 18th Dec to the year's end; **BRECON:** A juvenile found at Llangorse Lake on 26th Nov remained into 2012; **MEIRIONNYDD:** One at the northern end of Llyn Tegid on 1st, 23rd and 28th Jan.

WHITE-BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii*

TROCHYDD PIGWEN

(A) *A very rare vagrant, on WRP list.*

PEMBROKE: One was observed flying east past Strumble Head on 1st Sept. This is the third record for Wales and the second county record. The other county record was similarly seen passing Strumble on 27th Sept 1999.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG

(C) *A numerous species, breeding in all coastal counties except Gwent. Frequent offshore in most months.*

Counts of apparently occupied sites are as follows:

E. GLAMORGAN: The only proof of breeding came from Cwm Nash cliffs where at least 2 fluffy juvs were seen on 30th July and 3 on 30th Aug, although at least 20 birds were on the ledges in June, mainly in pairs; **GOWER:** Bred at Fall Bay, with one pair having two young on ledge on 4th June, one pair probably bred at Lewes Castle; **PEMBROKE:** Breeding counts of apparently occupied nests included: 474 on Skomer and 302 on Ramsey, of which 27 fledged from 47 nests. A blue phase bird was seen and photographed from a boat 12 miles off Neyland on 15th August; **MEIRIONNYDD:** One pair on cliffs at Friog on 14th June; **CAERNARFON:** There were 22 pairs of Fulmars occupying nest ledges on Bardsey, four more than last year, but 28.3% fewer than the 2002-2011 mean. On the mainland, there were 10 occupied sites at Carreg y Llam on 1st July and 2 at Braich y Noddfa on 27th April. On the Great Orme, 26 occupied sites were counted between 29th June and 8th July; **ANGLESEY:** 22 pairs bred at South Stack including South Stack island. Breeding was also recorded at Puffin Island, Llanbadrig and Ynys y Fydlyn (Carmel Head), with 26 birds on Puffin Island on the 20th June.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

ADERYN-DRYCIN CORY

(A) *Occasional visitor, on WRP list.*

E. GLAMORGAN: There was one off Porthcawl on 7th Aug, the first record since 1991 and the fourth for the recording area; **PEMBROKE:** All records from Strumble Head where a total of five birds passed, four on 17th July in the space of 32 minutes before 6.42 in the morning. The other, an evening bird, on 21st Aug. These are first birds to be recorded at Strumble since 2006.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*

ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR

(A) *Vagrant, on WRP list.*

GOWER: One off Worm's Head on 7th Aug; **PEMBROKE:** Two off Strumble Head on the 5th Sept and two more on the 6th; **CAERNARFON:** One was seen off Bardsey on 7th Sept. This is the first record here since 2004.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

ADERYN-DRYCIN DU

(B) *A fairly common passage migrant to western coastal areas, principally in the period late August to early October. Wales Amber-listed.*

E. GLAMORGAN: One was seen off Porthcawl on 7th Sep by a number of observers, the first since 2001 and only the eighth record for the recording area; **PEMBROKE:** Recorded at Strumble Head from 17th July. The total of 277 from Strumble Head is the 3rd highest yearly total ever recorded, with 14 in August, 260 in September and 2 in October. The largest daily count was of 87 on 7th Sept with 76 on the 5th. Elsewhere, five off Ramsey on 6th Sept & seven the next day. A single bird was seen north of Ramsey Sound on 20th December. Off Skomer, singles on 17th July and 19th Sept and two in St. Bride's Bay on 5th Sept; **CEREDIGION:** There was an early record of one on 18th June, seen from a boat off New Quay. Possibly this was the individual photographed from close quarters from a tour boat close in at New Quay on 21st. On 1st Sept one was again seen from a boat off New Quay, followed by one at Mwnt on 8th Sept; **CAERNARFON:** Singles flew west past the Little Orme on 12th Sept and on 9th Oct, with one west off Penmaenmawr on 13th Sept. Further west, three passed Porth Ysgaden on 13th Sept. The first record on Bardsey was a single on 14th Aug. In September there were 11 here on 5th and nine on 6th. Strong north-west winds on 7th produced 101 birds, the second-highest total ever for the island. Thereafter there were two on 8th, one on 11th, eight on 12th, seven on 13th and a single on the 19th; **ANGLESEY:** Single birds passed North Stack on the 6th and 7th Sept.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

ADERYN-DRYGIN MANAW

(C) Breeding on Pembrokeshire islands and also in Caernarfon. Large feeding movements and autumn passage are regular off western coasts and even well up into the Bristol Channel. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding records were: **PEMBROKE:** The Skomer island shearwater census estimated 316,070 breeding pairs. Confirmed breeding on Ramsey, possibly bred Grassholm where it was heard coming onshore during June & July; **CAERNARFON:** From 122 marked burrows on Bardsey, 89 contained fledgible chicks. This gives a productivity figure of 0.73 chicks per breeding pair, only just lower than the 2001-2010 average.

Large counts and other records were: **GWENT:** Max count was a total of 76 off Goldcliff Point on 2nd May, all heading down-channel; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Max. 4,300 off Porthcawl in May. A count of 8,130 here on 18th June, which was estimated from timed 1 minute counts every 15 minutes, exceeds the previous highest total (8,050 in 2000) for the recording area; **GOWER:** 2,700 south of Worm's Head on 11th June, c. 2,700 surface and air diving in Rhossili Bay on 2nd July, 3,000 at Whiteford Scar on 14th July; **CARMARTHEN:** The largest count was 1,000+ in a westward passage close inshore at Marros on 6th July. There were 2 inland records of singles at Richmond Terrace, Carmarthen in Sept and Glangwili Hospital on 10th Oct; **PEMBROKE:** First recorded 26th Feb at Strumble Head & last seen 12th Dec at the same site; **CEREDIGION:** Large numbers congregate with other seabirds off Borth and Ynyslas in Cardigan Bay, peaking in late July and early August. Peak counts in 2011 were 10,000 at Ynyslas on 2nd May, 20,000 at Ynyslas on 27th July, 30,000 there on 28th July. There were 30,000 at Borth on 1st Aug and 18,000 there on the 5th. One at Aberaeron on 25th Nov was probably the latest county record; **RADNOR:** A record 9 birds picked up on 5th-6th Sept and 20th-22nd Sept; **MEIRIONNYDD:** 2,000+ off Tonfanau Beach on 31st July and c.10,000 circling Cardigan Bay off Tywyn on 25th July, the same birds as those recorded under **CEREDIGION; CAERNARFON:** Large

movements were noted past Bardsey during strong winds in September. On 6th, 1,808 were counted, with 2,600 the next day. On 12th there were only small numbers seen up to three hours before dusk, when birds began passing the island in force, peaking at about 9,000 in the penultimate hour of light. By the end of the day 15,736 birds had been counted. The following evening the same happened, though the count was a more modest 6,178; **ANGLESEY**: 1,700 flew north past South Stack on the 27th May and 1,300 were off Cemlyn on the 17th July with several thousand there on the 8th Aug.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

ADERYN-DRYGIN MOR
Y CANOLDIR

(C) A fairly common passage migrant to western coastal areas, principally in the period late August to early October. Wales Red-listed.

Monthly summary of autumn passage:

	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER	1			1	1		
PEMBROKE Strumble Head			26	132	13		
Ramsey				12			10
Skomer				2			
CEREDIGON		1	11	9			
CAERNARFON Mainland				1			
ANGLESEY Cemlyn			1	2			
Holyhead Breakwater					1		
South Stack		1	3				
North Stack				2	1		
Point Lynas			6	11	1		

One seen close inshore at Cefn Padrig **CARMARTHEN** on 11th July was only the third county record. Bardsey, **CAERNARFON**, recorded one on 7th July and singles on 8th and 14th Aug. Birds passed the island on 17 dates in September. Most records were of one to six birds, though 17 were counted on 7th. There were three records in October, with four on 4th, one on 5th and ten on 6th. The final record of the year, and latest ever record for the island was on 3rd Dec

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

PEDRYN DRYGIN

(C) Breeds regularly on several island sites off the west coast, mainly in very small colonies. Skokholm holds the only population over 1,000 pairs. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding information: **PEMBROKE**: Confirmed breeder on Ramsey with at least five nest sites and on Grassholm where also at least five nest sites were located; **CAERNARFON**: A systematic census of breeding birds was not carried out on

Bardsey this year, but birds were again present at the traditional sites visited when ringing Razorbills.

Other records were **GWENT**: Three records, all of single birds flying down-channel during periods of SW gales, off Goldcliff Point on 18th June and 7th Sept and past Peterstone Wentlooge on 11th Sept; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Offshore passage in small numbers was noted at Porthcawl on ten dates from 22nd May to 22nd Sept, in May, June, Aug and Sept, the highest counts being 9 on 22nd and 23rd May and 25th June. Elsewhere there was 1 off Cardiff Heliport on 22nd May, 1 off Summerhouse Pt on 26th May, 2 off Nell's Pt - Barry on 27th Aug, and 3 off Lavernock Pt on 7th Sept; **GOWER**: 2 past Mumbles Head on 22nd June and one past Tutt Head on 11th Sept. 4 singles past Port Eynon Point between 8th July and 11th Sept; **PEMBROKE**: At Strumble Head 20 birds were recorded on seven dates between 17th July and 6th Oct, max 8 on 7th Sept. The Teifi Ringing Group trapped and ringed birds on three occasions at Strumble Head, four on 3rd July, eight on 30th July & a single bird on 31st August. At sea four birds recorded between Grassholm and The Smalls on 17th Aug. Seawatching from Ramsey Island produced one on 18th July and two on 18th Sept. 25 were ringed during the summer on Skomer; **CAERNARFON**: Five birds were trapped on Bardsey on 1st Aug, with a further three attracted to tape lures on 28th. One was attracted to the Lighthouse and trapped on 23rd Oct, and in November one was attracted to the Lighthouse on 21st. This bird was found dead at the bottom of the tower, but may have been killed by a mouse. Another bird was trapped and ringed the following night. Elsewhere, singles off Criccieth on 23rd and 24th May; **ANGLESEY**: One off the Trwyn at Cemlyn, following strong overnight winds on the 24th May, and one was off South Stack on the 27th May.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* **PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG**
(B) *A scarce autumn visitor, commonest off the north coast. Wales Amber-listed.*

E. GLAMORGAN: One flew past Irongate Pt., Porthcawl seafront on 10th Oct; **GOWER**: One west past Mumbles Head on 13th Sept; **PEMBROKE**: Strumble Head had 75 birds which were recorded on eight dates between 13th Sept and 19th Oct, max 33 on 18th Sept. One was seen off Ramsey on 6th Oct; **CEREDIGION**: Two seen from a boat a mile off New Quay on 13th Aug was the earliest record since 25th August 2005. In September one was at New Quay on 7th, two on 12th and 12 on 13th. Two were at Mwnt on 14th, one at Aberaeron on 17th and two at New Quay on 18th. One was at Mwnt on 6th October and two there on 7th; **CAERNARFON**: Off the Little Orme, 10 birds between 7th Sept and 7th Oct, max 5 on 12th Sept. 5 passed Rhos Point on 6th Oct. On Bardsey, 24 passed between 12th Sept and 19th Oct, max 10 on 7th Oct. One was attracted to the Lighthouse on 26th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: One flew past Point Lynas and one flew past North Stack on the 14th Sept, one flew past Point Lynas on the 6th Oct and singles flew past Point Lynas and Cemlyn on the 7th Oct.

GANNET *Morus bassana* **HUGAN**
(D) *A common bird offshore throughout the year, most plentiful during the extended breeding season, March – October. One major breeding colony on Grassholm, Pembrokeshire. Wales Amber-listed.*

There was no full census on Grassholm **PEMBROKE** in 2011. Productivity from nests containing large young in mid July was 0.72 from a random sample of 1,038.

Large counts (200+) were: **GOWER**: 300 north of Worm's Head on 22nd Oct; **CEREDIGION**: 260 at Borth on 3rd May, 500 at Ynyslas on 27th July; **CAERNARFON**: Max. 850 off Bardsey in September and 560 in October; **ANGLESEY**: 250 passed Point Lynas on 7th Oct.

Counts are usually low in winter, but there were 128 in Oxwich Bay **GOWER** on 29th Dec and 46 feeding off Cefn Sidan **CARMARTHEN** on 2nd Jan. One was swimming on Kenfig Pool **E. GLAMORGAN** on 20th Sept.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

(C) Breeding resident in coastal counties from Gwent to Anglesey. Frequently seen offshore in other counties. A regular visitor to inland freshwaters, mainly between late summer and early spring. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding counts were: **GWENT**: A visit to the Denny Island colony on 7th June by the Goldcliff Ringing Group found 16 nests still occupied; it was believed that a further 45 nests had probably been used earlier in the year (compared to nine and 40 in 2010). An estimated total of 85 birds (adults and sub- adults) were present at the time of the visit. Six dead pulli were noted near nests and a dead adult was found entangled in fishing line. A total of 22 birds was ringed, 17 of which were also fitted with coloured Darvic rings as part of the ongoing Cormorant Project; **CEREDIGION**: No counts from breeding colonies; **CAERNARFON**: On Ynys Gwylan Fawr 34 nest platforms were counted and 86 fledgling birds were seen. On Ynys Gwylan Bach 12 platforms were recorded and a minimum of 13 young fledged. Productivity on Ynys Gwylan Fawr was 2.53 and on Ynys Gwylan Bach was 1.08 chicks per pair. The combined productivity figure of 2.15 is 4% below the 2002-2011 mean, but the best recorded since 2007. There were 275 occupied nests at the Little Orme on 16th June, 25 occupied nests on the Great Orme on 29th June and 15 occupied nests at Carreg y Llam on 1st July; **ANGLESEY**: There were 484 apparently occupied nests on Puffin Island on the 20th June and 8 nests on North Stack in the summer.

Systematic counts from the main estuarine and inland sites, with 40 or more at least once, were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res	75	15	20							54	13	40
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	5	62	2	22	-	-	-	1	24	2	-	-
GOWER												
Whiteford Pt	55	32	38	31	17	31	95	84	70	92	50	47
Port Talbot Docks	86	29	40	13	10	10	16	24	18	46	83	36
Queen's Dock, Swansea	67	78	77	53	11	5	17	29	55	69		

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	8	8	11	3	1	1	3	17	13	13	17	117
C. Sidan/Tywyn P	17	51	17							183	65	74
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi	30	11	27	19	10	15	23	38	43	34	46	31
BRECON												
Talybont	14	0	2	9			10	16	4	41	22	5
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	12	8	9	32	43	42	74	122	28	12	-	0
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	0	6	0	-	-	-	-	-	6	72	28	4
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	5	5	13	8	13	9	9	16	46	13	16	7
Little Orme			30						100+			20+
Traeth Lafan	62	8	32					22	59	60	43	59

Other large counts were: **GOWER**: 77 near Burry Holms on 1st Jan, 51 at Shire Comb on 2nd Jan, 259 at Worm's Head on 3rd Jan, with 126 at the Inner Worm on 30th Jan, max 125 at Rhossili Bay on 30th Jan, 97 at Berges Island on 1st Oct, max 51 at Three Chimneys on 22nd Nov and max 170 at Oxwich Bay on 28th Dec; **CARMARTHEN**: Counts of 23 at Pentre-davis on 25th Aug and 36 at Cilsan Bridge 16th Nov. were the highest inland numbers in the Tywi valley seen by the observer in over 20 years; **PEMBROKE**: A good total of 106 passed Strumble Head on four dates, max 62 on 14th Sept; **CEREDIGION**: 61 were at Mwnt on 1st Oct; **MEIRIONNYDD**: 328 off Morfa Harlech on 19th June and 200 off Harlech Beach on 1st Oct; **CAERNARFON**: 200+ at Rhos Point on 8th Sept.

Records of birds showing characteristics of the Continental race *P.c.sinensis* were **CARMARTHEN**: 2 at Penclacwydd on 13th Feb. and 1 at Ginst Point on 26th; **ANGLESEY**: One at Llyn Llygeirian on 17th April.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

MULFRAN WERDD

(C) A regular breeding species on rocky coasts from Gower northwards to Anglesey.

Breeding information received as follows: **PEMBROKE**: Two nested on the north coast of Skomer, 53 on Middleholm (productivity of 2.64) and confirmed breeder on Ramsey & Grassholm; **CAERNARFON**: On Bardsey a total of 39 pairs nested, 56% more than last year, 25.8% more than the long-term average but 3.5% fewer than the 2002-2011 mean. Productivity remained at over two chicks per pair, but was 20% lower than last year and 8% lower than the 2002-2011 mean. On Ynysodd Gwylan a minimum of 49 nests was counted during early June, a 34.7% decrease on 2010. Of these 49 nests, 27 were on Ynys Gwylan Fawr, exactly half that present last year. The 22 nests recorded on Ynys Gwylan Bach was one more than in 2010. Overall productivity of 2.12 was 3.4% up on last year but 2.8% below the 2003-2011 mean. Nine occupied nests were counted at Carreg y Llam on 1st July; **ANGLESEY**: 14 pairs were at nesting sites at Rhoscolyn on 6th March, there were 12 nests on the Skerries during the breeding season and on Puffin Island there were 137 AON's on the 20th June

Systematic counts from the main sites with at least 15 recorded once:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	16	18	26	36	52	56	86	54	38	31	19	16

Other large counts were: **GOWER**: 22 in Oxwich Bay on 15th Jan, 44 off Oxwich Point on 5th Feb. There were good numbers in Oxwich Bay in Dec, with 27 on the 25th, 47 on 27th and 86 on 31st, and 134 at Oxwich Point on 28th Dec; **CAERNARFON**: 100 on the Little Orme on 25th Sept and 142 on 28th Sept, with 20+ at Pontllyfni on 24th Jan ; **ANGLESEY**: There were 24 off Plas y Borth in the Menai Strait on 17th Jan and 70 flew west past Cemlyn on the 9th Dec.

Inland records were: **E. GLAMORGAN**: One on Glamorgan Canal, Cardiff on 9th Jan, followed by one on Kenfig Pool on 17th Jan.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

ADERYN Y BWN

(A) Scarce but regular winter visitor chiefly to Anglesey, Ceredigion, Carmarthen, Glamorgan and Pembroke. Wales Amber-listed.

County totals were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT	1		1									
E. GLAMORGAN	8	5			1-5						2+	8
GOWER	5	1	1									
CARMARTHEN	3	1									1	1
PEMBROKE	2	2	5								3	3
CEREDIGION	1										1	
BRECON	1										1	1
RADNOR	1											
ANGLESEY	6	3	1+								4	3
DENBIGH RSPB Conwy	1											

The highest counts were up to 5 at Kenfig NNR **E. GLAMORGAN** on many dates from 1st Jan to 17th Feb and also on 6th March and 20th May, four at Bosherton **PEMBROKE** on 5th March and four at RSPB Malltraeth **ANGLESEY** on 24th Jan. In addition to the records given above, on 1st January in frozen conditions that allowed ground predators into reedbeds, feather remains of a predated Bittern were found on SCM Llangorse **BRECON**.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

CREYR Y GWARTHEG

(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list.

GWENT: A single adult, still in breeding plumage, was seen for just a single day at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 15th Aug . This is only the third county record, the last having graced the same location in 2008; **CARMARTHEN**: The only record was of an

adult in summer plumage which was photographed at Penclacwydd on 2nd July. This was the 7th county record and the 4th for the site.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

CREYR BACH

(B) Now a fairly common autumn migrant and winter visitor. Breeds in south and north Wales. Increasing occurrences with a distinct influx in autumn. Wales Amber-listed.

Though several counties reported a decrease in numbers following the severe winters in recent years, the general trend is upwards. Numbers have increased so much over the past decade that a detailed summary is no longer possible. A summary of individuals for some specific sites with 20+ recorded at least once is tabulated below:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
NWR		1	6	6	4	2	14	24	8	6	3	1
GOWER												
Upper Loughor	1	5	9	10	4	9	39	54	33	47	8	7
Llanrhidian	3	7	1	3	1	4	1	7	3	2	26	38
Penclawdd	1		1	3	6	28	9	8	2	5	4	6
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	3	3	6	6	2	3	125	166	53	60	28	55
Tywi	1	-	1	8	8	8	-	-	11	20	8	3
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi	3	1	2					21	6	4	5	3
CAERNARFON												
Foryd			2			3	3	4		4	20+	
Traeth Lafan	4	1	3	2	1	1		91	62	80	47	10
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea	7	7	7		2	11	18	41	21	29	18	6
DENBIGH												
Conwy estuary							30	42	19			

Other large counts were: **GOWER**: 51 at Cwrt y Carne on 18th Aug; **PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION**: 21 at the Teifi Est on 12th and 31st Aug. In **E. GLAMORGAN**, there were far fewer reports from a more restricted range of locations than in recent years – perhaps the more severe weather in the last two winters has taken its toll.

Breeding information: **GWENT**: Breeding took place once again in the county, but no pulli were ringed this year. Four juveniles were present at Peterstone Wentlooge on 13th Aug and one was at West Pill on 17th Sep; **GOWER**: The main site in North Gower held 20 young on 28th June, with 10-14 nests estimated. The second, smaller, site held no signs of occupation this year. Two juveniles in Baglan Bay on 15th July suggests local breeding; **CARMARTHEN**: Four pairs bred at one site; **CEREDIGION**: Six pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir; **BRECON**: Between 30th July and late August, what appeared to be a family party of a pair with an immature, ranged along the Llynfi and Wye between Pipton and Sheephouse, Hay, but there is still no evidence of local breeding;

CAERNARFON: There were probably 30+ pairs at the breeding colony near Bangor. Numbers were down on last year, and predation by corvids appeared to be a problem this year. At least three pairs bred at the site in the east of the county; **ANGLESEY:** Bred at the Inland Sea, with 2 nests seen on the 23rd June, and 3 adults with 2 juveniles seen on the 26th July.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

CREYR MAWR GWYN

(A) A vagrant, on WRP list.

E. GLAMORGAN: A single bird was seen flying over Llandaff, Cardiff on 5th Nov. This was the fifth individual for the recording area; **GOWER:** A bird first found on 17th July flying from WWT Penclacwydd (CARMARTHEN) up the Loughor estuary, then recorded on many dates to 16th Oct at sites in the Burry Inlet. There were two at Wernffrwd on 21st Oct and 5th and 12th-13th Nov, at Llanrhidian Marsh on 2nd Nov, at Leason Pill on 16th Nov and 2nd Dec, Pont y Cob Road on 2nd Dec and Llanrhidian on 22nd Dec. Away from the Burry Inlet, one at Gnoil Park main lake on 4th Dec and at Pennard Pill on 30th Dec; **CARMARTHEN:** An exceptional year for this species. The first record was of one at Penclacwydd from 14th – 17th July, then a series of sightings at various locations along the Burry Estuary (including Llangennech, Penclacwydd and north Gower) into October. It was confirmed that more than 1 individual was involved when 2 were seen at Penclacwydd on 17th Oct. These were regularly seen, both at Penclacwydd and north Gower, to the end of the year, with 3 at Penclacwydd on 28th Nov. Other records from this period were of singles at Kidwelly Quay on 6th Nov, Dinefwr Ponds on 19th Nov and 1st Dec and Brynaman on 4th Dec; **PEMBROKE:** The only accepted record was of an individual at Bosherston on 13th Nov; **CEREDIGION:** One was at RSPB Ynys-hir on 15th and 16th Oct; **BRECON:** One feeding in the marsh at the south end of Talybont Reservoir on 25th Oct, and what may have been the same bird returned to the county at Llangorse on 18th Dec and remained in the area until March 2012; **DENBIGH:** One at Conwy RSPB on 14th Oct.

Additional Record 2009: CARMARTHEN: 1 at Llandovery on 23rd Oct..

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

CREYR GLAS

(C) Resident breeding species occurring widely around estuaries, lakes and inland watercourses; although the population is increasing in some counties, overall in Wales, it appears to be stable.

Colony counts were received as follows: **GWENT:** There were 60 nests at 8 locations, the largest 14 nests at Pant-y-Goitre; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 50 nests were counted in 5 heronries, but several colonies were not counted this year; **GOWER:** 41 nests in 8 heronries, compared to 42 in 9 heronries in 2010; **CEREDIGION:** 81 nests in 11 heronries, the largest at Maesllyn with 19 nests. This compares with a county total of 88 in 2010, 97 in 2009 and 107 in 2008; **BRECON:** 68 nests at 6 heronries, with the largest 26 nests at Cefn Rhosan, Sennybridge and 25 nests at Ashford (Llandetty); **RADNOR:** 16 pairs at 3 sites; **CAERNARFON:** The largest heronry in the county is at Coed Benarth Conwy, where there were 22 nests.

Monthly counts from selected sites recording 10 birds at least once:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est	2	6	12							10	4	5
Freshwaters	3	6	17							9	15	8
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	7	18	1					0	15	1	16	19

Other large counts were: **GWENT**: 13 were at Portwall, Chepstow on 23rd Nov; **GOWER**: 12 flying over Llandarcy on 4th June; **ANGLESEY**: 17 were sheltering from the wind on Ynys Welltog in the Menai Strait on 23rd Oct.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*
(A) Very rare visitor, on WRP list.

CRËYR PORFFOR

E. GLAMORGAN: A lucky observer saw one flying over Kenfig Pool on 22nd April. It was seen again the following day; **CEREDIGION**: One was at RSPB Ynys-hir from 6th May until 8th, viewed from the Ynys Eiddol hide. This was the sixth county record and the first since 2007; **ANGLESEY**: An adult was found during a Lapwing survey on Afon Braint at Dwyran on 4th -11th April.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*
(A) Very rare visitor, on BBRC list.

CICONIA DU

E. GLAMORGAN: Two lucky observers, one of whom was fortunately carrying a camera, saw a bird flying over Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Maesteg, on 22nd May, a first for the recording area; **BRECON**: One was photographed flying west over Twyn-yr-odyn Farm, Llanfilo on 8th May. This is the first Breconshire record.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

CICONIA GWYN

(A) Unusual visitor, on WRP list. Some record relate to escaped individuals.

A single bird roosted on the chimneys of Moynes Cottage, Mathern **GWENT** during the evening of 30th April and was then seen in the early morning of 1st May, in flight and briefly at rest on a lighting gantry at Newhouse Industrial estate before disappearing to the east over the River Wye. This was the fifth county record; An adult at Aberdulais **GOWER** on 29th and 30th April, having roosted overnight on a lamp-post by the A465.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*
(A) Vagrant, on BBRC list.

CRYMANBIG DDU

A single juvenile present for several hours at NWR Goldcliff lagoons/Saltmarsh Grasslands **GWENT** on 9th Oct was the second county record, and the first since 1902. A single bird was at the Watermill Flood **E. GLAMORGAN** from 30th Sept to 5th Oct, the third individual for the recording area, following the one at Dunraven last year. A juv. in the Kidwelly Quay/Gwendraeth Estuary **CARMARTHEN** area from 29th Sept

to 2nd Oct. was the third successive autumn record for the county. An immature bird was at RSPB Malltraeth Marsh **ANGLESEY** from the 16th-19th Nov.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

LLWYBIG

(A) *A uncommon visitor to Wales, recorded mainly from estuaries and coastal lagoons and occasionally over-wintering and summering. Wales Amber-listed.*

All records were: in **GWENT**: There were two at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 12th April. A single bird turned up at NWR Boat Lane on 21st April and was reported from there or, more frequently, from nearby Goldcliff lagoons on ten days up to and including 4th May. There were four June records of single birds at NWR Goldcliff: on 2nd, 13th, 17th and 21st. There was then a final bird at the same site on 28th Oct; **CARMARTHEN**: Single birds were seen at Penclacwydd from 14th Feb to 9th March, 15th June to 7th July and on 10th Aug, with 2 immatures also being present on 21st June. The only other record was of an immature at Banc-y-Lord on 19th April; **PEMBROKE**: A single juvenile bird first seen on Skokholm on 2nd June then at Marloes Mere, where it was joined by a second bird on the 20th. Later in the year, this bird or another appeared in the same area from 27th Oct until last reported on 4th Dec; **CEREDIGION**: One was at Cors Fochno on 15th June; **CAERNARFON**: An immature bird was seen circling over Bardsey on 25th Oct. The bird alighted briefly, but then left the island heading southeast. This is only the second record for the island, the first being in 1953.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

GWYACH FACH

(C) *Rather uncommon breeding resident on well vegetated lakes, marshes and water courses; scarcer in the land-locked counties. Winter visitor.*

Breeding records (not full surveys) received were:

GWENT: At least four pairs bred at the former Corus site, Llanwern, 3 pairs raised a total of 4 young at NWR, two pairs nested at Magor Marsh and a pair fledged two young on the River Monnow at Osbadston. Juveniles were seen at Ynysfro and Red Pools, Nash, and display was noted at Beaufort Ponds and NWR Uskmouth; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding was confirmed at six sites: there were 2 broods at each of Cosmeston CP, Duffryn Bach Lake - Ely Valley, E. Aberthaw Quarry, Lamby Tip and Parc Slip NR, with single broods at Bedford Park and Bonvilston; **GOWER**: Bred at Port Talbot sand extraction site, with 4 chicks seen on 17th June, and probably bred at Baglan Pool and Llangyfelach New Pond; **CARMARTHEN**: Bred at Penclacwydd, Sandy W.P., the pond at the former power station site at Burry Port, Llyn Llech Owain (on a minor pond to the S. of the main lake) and Taliaris Lake. Probably bred at Pontarsais; **PEMBROKE**: Only one breeding record was received; **CEREDIGION**: Single pairs each reared two young at Llanerchaeron, Maeslyn pool at Llangwryfon, Bwlchrwys pond and Llyn Frongoch and one young was reared at Nant yr Arian. Other than two birds at RSPB Ynys-hir, no other reports were received during the breeding season; **BRECON**: In the breeding season, trilling males or pairs were at Ty Mawr Pool, Buckland Pool, Battle pools (one juv. raised), Cwmcynog pool (two juvs. reduced to one), Gofynne pool (one juv.), Garth Lake and Dolmynach Reservoir; **ANGLESEY**: Bred at Cors Erddreiniog, in Pentraeth Forest and on Llyn Parc Mawr.

Monthly maximum counts from the main sites, holding 10 or more at least once, were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
NWR	1	10	19	9		6	7	8	10	21	6	4
Ynysfro Res.	4	6	4	1	1		3	9	6	6	9	11
Mon/Brec Canal: Ynysfro-Malpas	3		3		3	4	4	6	10	7	5	4
E. GLAMORGAN												
Llan/Lis Res	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	5	11	11	-	5
Roath Park Lake	16	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
Cardiff Bay*	-	15	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	16	10
Cosmeston CP	1	1	4	4	2	4	6	13	2	2	2	3
Ogmore Est	12	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	15	9
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth	12	3								2	4	2
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est WeBS	9	11	2							1	12	10
Freshwaters	55	48	15							19	37	45
Westfield Pill	9	4	2							7	9	12
BRECON												
Talybont	5	8	0					13	15	11	13	10
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwryrd	10	4	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	16	19	6
Tal-y-llyn	2	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	8	11	3
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	9	10	1					0	5	15	12	8
ANGLESEY												
Cemlyn	12	5	1							2	5	
Llyn Cefni		5						15		11		

* includes R.Taff-Hamadryad

Other large counts included **E. GLAMORGAN**: 12 at Parc Taff Bargoed on 23rd Jan; **CARMARTHEN**: 15 at Middleton Hall Lake on 1st Nov. It was noted that counts at Talybont Reservoir **BRECON** maintained the steady decline seen here since the high numbers of the late 1990s.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* **GWYACH FAWR GOPOG**
(C) Resident breeding species in all counties except Pembroke, breeding on shallow, vegetated lakes. Shows a more coastal distribution in winter and recorded on passage from several counties.

Breeding records were: **GWENT**: Breeding or probable breeding was noted at Beaufort, Bryn Bach, Bulmore lakes, Cwm Hedd (Bassaleg), Llandegfedd Reservoir,

Machine, NWR, Wentwood Reservoir and Ynysyfro Reservoir. At Bulmore lakes, 3 pairs bred, three separate broods were hatched and at least three young raised; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Successful breeding with young seen was noted at CBWR (2 pairs), Cardiff Bay – Prospect Place (2 pairs), Cosmeston CP (3 pairs), E. Aberthaw Quarry (1 pair) and Watford Lake, Caerphilly (1 pair). Nesting attempts at Bute East Dock (2 pairs) and Lisvane Res failed to produce young, and although display was noted at Kenfig NNR, no nesting reports ensued; **GOWER:** 3 broods at Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, including a late brood of 2 chicks on 2nd Sept. Present on Fendrod Lake and Borrow Pits, Resolven; **CEREDIGION:** A pair bred successfully again at Llyn Glandwgan, rearing three young and another on neighbouring Llyn Frongoch reared two young. During the breeding season a single bird was at Llyn Egnant on 28th June and a pair was present on Llyn Gynon; **BRECON:** A pair at Cantref Reservoir nested from 4th May to 29th June, constructing three nests in that period. The first two were flooded out by rising water levels, but by 4th July the third was empty with a suspicion that the adults nearby had young on their backs. 2-3 young were confirmed a week later, with one surviving into late-August. At Beacons Res., only a single pair stayed to attempt breeding but that failed. Elsewhere, two nests built by separate pairs at Talybont failed, and a pair attempted to breed at Pentwyn Reservoir. A pair raised one chick at Usk Reservoir, and a breeding attempt was probably made at Crai Reservoir. 4-7 possible breeding pairs at Llangorse in early May were accompanied by a single juvenile in mid-July. Breeding success at Llangorse has been very low in recent years; **RADNOR:** 7 pairs at 3 sites raised 1 young; **MEIRIONNYDD:** An adult with two juveniles at Pentre-piod, Llyn Tegid on 24th July; **CAERNARFON:** A pair were on a nest at Llyn Glasfryn on 4th July. A pair were displaying on Llyn Gwynant on 23rd March and there was a pair on Llyn Dinas on 15th April; **ANGLESEY:** Bred on Llyn Cefni, with an adult on a nest on the 12th May, and an adult with 2 juveniles seen on 30th June. On Llyn Treflesg an adult bird and 2 juveniles were seen on the 7th Aug, and on Llyn Coron 2 families were seen on the 23rd Aug. They also bred at Llyn Maelog, with an adult and juvenile seen on the 25th June, and at Llyn Penrhyn; **DENBIGH:** A breeding attempt at RSPB Conwy failed.

Monthly counts from the main sites, with 20 or more birds at least once, were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	35	24	20					3		11	9	14
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	6	18	12	24	-	32	19	4	25	6	5	7
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res	6	37	16	16	14	9	32	33	45	28	16	14
Blackpill	104	8	5	2	4	1	4	10	9	3	213	285
Baglan Bay	448	237	11				1			100	121	100
Port Talbot Harbour	24	30	25	1						8	37	37
CARMARTHEN												
Pwll/Burry Port	20		10				4			29	46	2
CAERNARFON												
Penmaenmawr	4		6								45	
Traeth Lafan	143	150	169					11	14	26	48	39

Other notable counts included **E. GLAMORGAN**: 58 at Kenfig rivermouth on 1st Jan was the highest ever in the recording area; **GOWER**: 94+ off Margam Sands on 9th Jan, 39 in Oxwich Bay on 17th Jan, 66 off Salthouse Point on 19th March, 51 at Llanrhidian on 22nd March with 101 there on 31st Aug, 78 off Crofty-Wernffrwd on 29th Aug, 60 at Leason Pill on 8th Sept and 50 off Whiteford on 1st Oct; **CARMARTHEN**: 27 at Pendine on 8th Jan and 30 at Cefn Sidan on 23rd; **ANGLESEY**: 20 off Penrhyn Point on the 10th March and up to 20 were off Benllech on the 25th Dec .

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

GWYACH YDDFGOCH

(A) Scarce but regular winter visitor. Wales Amber-listed.

All records were: **GOWER**: Two in Oxwich Bay on 14th-15th Jan, 1+ there on 19th. In the second winter period, one at Burry Pill/Whiteford on 6th and 13th Nov; **PEMBROKE**: A single bird at Cwm yr Eglwys from 5th Jan to 1st Feb and another at Gann/Dale Roads from 29th Jan until 13th March; **CEREDIGION**: The first record since 2008 was of one found dead at Ynyslas on 15th Nov; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One at the eastern end of the Cob, Porthmadog on 9th Dec; **ANGLESEY**: A first winter bird was on Llyn Penrhyn from the 13th Nov to 11th Dec . This had quite a long yellow bill, characteristic of the North American race *P. g. holboellii*.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

GWYACH GORNIOG

(B) A scarce and local winter visitor, chiefly to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Amber-listed.

Summary of multiple winter records:

		J	F	M	A		O	N	D
GOWER	Burry Pill / Whiteford Point	4						3	5
	Wernffrwd			6				1	
MEIRIONNYDD	Harlech	5	4					3	
CAERNARFON	Penmaenmawr	3		2					
	Traeth Lafan	3	6	10	1		2	9	2
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch Bay	7	4	4				2	5

Elsewhere: **GWENT**: A single bird was present in the NWR Uskmouth reed beds from 11th to 14th Nov; **E. GLAMORGAN**: A single at Cosmeston on 14th Jan was followed by one at Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff from 18th to 20th Jan. A long-staying individual in the Cardiff Bay area was noted on many dates from 12th Feb to 3rd April. In the second winter period one was reported on Lisvane Res from 20th Nov to 5th Dec; **GOWER**: 3 in Broughton Bay on 23rd Jan, 7 off Salthouse Point on 19th March, 4 at Pwll y Froga on 19th March, 2 at Llanrhidian on 23rd March and 7 at Berges Island on 1st April. Inland, one at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 24th-26th Feb. In the second winter period, two on the River Neath by Neath Saltmarsh on 21st Oct; **CARMARTHEN**: Records for the early winter period were of singles off Burry Port on 2nd and 22nd Jan and off Pwll on 2nd March. In Oct one was seen in the Pwll/Burry Port area from 12th – 21st. In Dec there were singles at Cefn Padrig on 16th and Penclacwydd on 30th, with 2 there on 31st; **PEMBROKE**: There were good numbers in the early part of 2011 with two birds at Broad Haven on 3rd and Fishguard Harbour on 4th Jan. Single birds were then reported from Cwm yr Eglwys on 5th to 23rd Jan, with two on the last date, at the Gann from 6th

to 12th Feb, Fishguard Harbour 15th Jan to 15th Feb and Angle Bay from 23rd Jan to 7th Feb; **CEREDIGION**: One was on the sea off Ynyslas on 1st Jan; **CAERNARFON**: There were two off Black Rock on 20th Feb, one in the Menai Strait at Caernarfon on 11th Nov and one at Foryd in December; **ANGLESEY**: One in Dulas Bay in February and two off Beaumaris in December.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

GWYACH YDDFDDU

(A) Rare winter visitor to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. A regular visitor in small numbers only to Anglesey and Caernarfon. Formerly bred on Anglesey. Wales Amber-listed.

E. GLAMORGAN: One visited Cardiff Bay on 24th Feb. A well-watched bird at Llanilid present from 30th April to 8th May was in full summer plumage; **GOWER**: One in Oxwich Bay on 6th and 12th Jan; **PEMBROKE**: One in Fishguard Harbour from 2010 last reported on 9th Jan and one at Llys y fran Res from 2nd Jan until 23rd; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Three off Harlech Beach on 31st Jan; **CAERNARFON**: There were two off Criccieth on 8th Jan; **ANGLESEY**: There was one on Llyn Cefni from 4th Jan-16th Feb, one on Llyn Traffwll from 15th-17th May, and one on Llyn Penrhyn on 16th Sept.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

BOD Y MEL

(B) First confirmed breeding in 1992, now breeds in small numbers. Formerly a rare summer visitor, numbers have increased throughout the 1980's and it is now recorded annually. Wales Amber-listed.

As a result of better weather conditions, and, crucially, the predicted welcome return of new males to old breeding areas, three pairs successfully fledged chicks in the south, the first successful season since 2008. All other records were of single migrants: over Sudbrook, **GWENT** on 3rd Aug; on Ramsey **PEMBROKE** on 19th April.

Additional record for 2010: single over Clydach Gorge, near Brynmawr, **GWENT**, on 25th May.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

BARCUD DU

(A) Very rare visitor, on WRP list.

One seen over Parc Slip NR **E. GLAMORGAN** on 28th Sept was only the third accepted record and individual for that county.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

BARCUD COCH

(C) Formerly widespread, but almost eradicated between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. Now an increasing resident breeder in Wales. Wales Amber-listed.

Summary Nesting Territories by Vice County, data from the Welsh Kite Trust:

County	<i>Nesting Territorial Pairs</i>	<i>Min. Pairs Rearing Young</i>	<i>Min. Young Reared</i>
GWENT	6		
E. GLAMORGAN	6		
GOWER	13		
CARMARTHEN	76		
PEMBROKE	13	6	9
CEREDIGION	161	87	106
BRECON	58		
RADNOR	113		
MONTGOMERY	51		
MEIRIONNYDD	4		
CAERNARFON	1		
TOTAL	502	304	418

Of 815 past occupied sites / territories, 528 were occupied and a total of 493 nests were located, slightly down on 2010 (thought to be due to coverage rather than any decline). Of the 528 territorial pairs located at least 493 pairs were known to have built nests and at least 480 of these pairs did lay eggs. Warm and dry weather in April and early May kept weather related loss fairly low but then in late May, gale force winds brought down many nests and some chicks were lost in heavy rains at about the same time. Productivity (the number of chicks/successful pair) was lower than last year but not by much as was the number of chicks per territorial pair, reflecting the slightly lower success rate. A minimum of 304 pairs were known to have reared at least 418 young. Of the total of 493 nest-building pairs, a high proportion – 456 (92.7%) - were found at the egg stage or earlier (or were at traditional sites) and also had a known outcome. As stated many times before it is these nests that provide us with the most useful information on productivity and success rates. Using this sample alone at least 444 pairs (97.4%) laid eggs, at least 320 pairs (70.2%) hatched a minimum of 444 chicks and 298 pairs (65.4%) reared at least 409 young (1.37 young per successful pair, 0.92 young per egg laying pair, 0.68 young per territorial pair). 146 (32.9%) egg-laying pairs were known to have failed, largely for unknown reasons.

In **PEMBROKE**: a minimum of 13 breeding territories, were located in March, and 11 nests were subsequently found. Of these, six were successful fledging a total of nine chicks. Most failures were attributable to a windy spell in early June when even chicks close to fledging were affected, in one case being blown out of the nest. Other failures happened early in the season, and it is thought that a high percentage of territories for which a nest could not be located didn't have an active nest during mid-June. In two cases the female was picked up dead due to poisoning from rodenticide and a banned substance formerly used to treat warble fly. One of the poisoned females had been ringed ten years earlier near Llanybydder, Carmarthenshire. The breeding range did not expand from that in 2010. In **CEREDIGION**: a minimum of 161 occupied territories. Of these at least 147 pairs built nests and 140 pairs laid eggs. A minimum of 87 pairs reared at least 106 chicks. 43 chicks were ringed and wing-tagged and an additional 11 chicks were collected for the Irish Re-introduction Project. Unusually, one nest near Lampeter failed because of interference by free-flying Macaws! An additional 108 previously used sites (of which 25 were used in 2010) were not checked.

Winter feeding counts included up to 250 at Nant y Arian, **CEREDIGION** and 200 near Glandwr, **PEMBROKE** / **CARMARTHEN** on 3rd Jan, dropping to 45 by the 15th. The largest count of Kites, away from the breeding areas, was of 66 over Ramsey, **PEMBROKE** on 3rd June. This was part of an influx into SW Britain, which included up to 80 in Cornwall.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

BOD Y GWERNI

(B) An increasing passage migrant, occasionally overwinters. Wales Amber-listed.

Only sexed records are included.

A female wintered at Newport Wetlands, **GWENT** from 2010 until 18th March and similarly from 13th Nov into 2012.

Spring passage of males: in **CAERNARFON**: a sub-adult male was seen on Bardsey on 7th April; at Llyn Penrhyn, **ANGLESEY** on 27th April. Females in spring included two at Newport Wetlands **GWENT** on 9th April; one at Lydstep, **PEMBROKE** on 6th March and at Farn Fawr on 10th April; one on Bardsey, **CAERNARFON** on 22nd April and another on 2nd June; singles at Cemlyn **ANGLESEY** on 22nd April and 2nd & 7th May, at Llyn Traffwll / Valley on 26th April and at South Stack on 2nd May; and one at RSPB Conwy **DENBIGH** on 17th May. A pair summered for the second year running in **PEMBROKE** but there was no evidence of breeding. A single female summered at Newport Wetlands **GWENT**.

In autumn: males: 2nd year male at Newport Wetlands **GWENT** from 10th July to 17th Aug; at Cors Caron, **CEREDIGION** on 12th Sept and off Tonfanau, **MEIRIONNYDD** on 30th Sept. In autumn, females / immatures: in **PEMBROKE**: at Lydstep on 4th Dec, passing Strumble Head 22nd & 29th Aug, on Skokholm 29th Aug, at Trefeiddan 10th Oct and at Teifi Marshes (**PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION**) on 8th Nov; at Cors Caron, **CEREDIGION** on 15th Oct; at Ynys crossing, **MEIRIONNYDD** on 2nd Sept; on **ANGLESEY**: at Llyn Dinam on 21st July & 21st Nov, at South Stack on 4th Aug, at Cefni estuary on 12th Aug, at Alaw estuary on 12th Nov, at Malltraeth Marsh RSPB on 14th Nov and at Plas Bog on 1st Dec.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

BOD TINWEN

(C) Small numbers breed on the uplands of north and mid-Wales, otherwise a winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Red-listed.

Breeding information as received: **BRECON**: Three territories located but only one was of a pair, the others just lone females; **MONTGOMERY**: Four pairs nested at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, laying 16 eggs, 14 hatching and just four fledging; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Breeding birds noted in the usual breeding areas. Two pairs bred in north-eastern Meirionnydd, one fledging three chicks. Two pairs bred in the north-mid of the vice county fledging five, two from one nest and three from the other. One pair bred in the north but failed, and one pair bred in the north-west. Records also received from the north Berwyn.

Widely recorded outside the breeding season and range. Breakdown of other records for each county (for some, specific sites are also included), separated by sex where given (M = male, J = juv., 1st M = immature male, RT = ring-tail):

	J	F	M	A	M	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT			M						M 2RT	M RT	M RT
E. GLAMORGAN	M									M	M
Llanilid	RT	RT	RT	RT	RT			RT	2RT	2RT	
GOWER		RT								M 2RT	2M RT
Llanrhidian/ North Gower	2M 3RT								M RT	M RT	M RT
Gower coast	2M RT	3M RT							RT	3M 2RT	M 2RT
PEMBROKE											
Dowrog / St. David's AF			RT						M RT	2M RT	M 4RT
Plumstone	M 2RT	2M 3RT	2M RT				M			M 2RT	RT
Marloes / Skomer	M RT	RT	RT	2					RT	2RT	
Castlemartin	M RT		M							M RT	RT
CEREDIGION*		M						RT	M 2RT	RT	M RT
BRECON			RT	RT					2M 2RT		M
MEIRIONNYDD	M RT	M 2RT		M		2RT				RT	
CAERNARFON					M						
Bardsey				RT						M	
ANGLESEY											
Malltraeth	2M 2RT	RT								M	2M 2RT
Cors Erddreiniog				RT							RT
Elsewhere	M RT	M RT		M RT						M 2 nd M RT	
DENBIGH											
RSPB Conwy	M	M									M

* not including birds on the Dyfi or Cors Caron.

CARMARTHEN: Recorded in coastal areas, both males & ring-tails, but no inland records received.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*
(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list.

BOD MONTAGU

A male was at Tŷ Mawr, Holyhead Mountain, **ANGLESEY** on 2nd & 3rd May.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*
(C) An increasing breeding resident in all Welsh counties.

GWALCH MARTH

GWENT: In the east of the county, a total of 48 chicks fledged from 23 nest, a productivity of 2.1 young per nest. Three records from the west of the county; **E. GLAMORGAN**: A minimum of five breeding pairs plus one other; **GOWER**: Present at 7+ breeding sites; **CARMARTHEN**: Bred at several sites; **PEMBROKE**: Present at eight sites during the breeding season; **CEREDIGION**: Four potential breeding pairs plus individuals at two other sites; **BRECON**: Reported from 30 locations; **MONTGOMERY**: At least 5 pairs were reported to have bred. Three were successful, while the outcome of the other two is unknown; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Four breeding season records; **CAERNARFON**: Three records; **ANGLESEY**: One in Newborough Forest on 9th April.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*
(D) Common and widespread breeding resident throughout Wales, some evidence that it is declining where Goshawks are widespread.

GWALCH GLAS

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*
(D) Common and widespread breeding resident throughout all of Wales.

BWNCATH

E. GLAMORGAN: 15 worming at Southerndown on 19th March; **CAERNARFON**: 14 at Porth Neigwl on 24th Sept.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*
(B) An annual spring and autumn passage migrant which has increased in parallel with the Scottish breeding population. First recorded breeding in 2004, although a nest was built in 2003. Wales Amber-listed.

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

The male Osprey at Cors Dyfi, **MONTGOMERY**, finally managed to attract a female. She was a ringed bird, and turned out to have been born in Rutland Water in 2008. Unusually for first-time parents, this pair fledged three chicks, two males and a female. The pair on the Glaslyn, **MEIRIONNYDD** bred successfully again, raising three young. One of the birds raised from here in 2006 bred again at a site in Scotland for its third year. Another chick raised here in 2008 was seen around the Glaslyn nest this year. Birds were seen commuting between Pont Croesor and the Llyn Trawsfynydd area in the summer. Other breeding / summering records received include: at least one summered on the Cleddau estuary, **PEMBROKE** but there was no conclusive evidence of any breeding attempt; birds were seen on the Dyfi, **CEREDIGION** from early April, until 15th Nov, relating to the **MONTGOMERY** pair; one summered in the Usk Valley / Llangorse / Talybont, **BRECON**; One summered on **ANGLESEY**.

Apart from the above, approximate monthly totals for each county:

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
GWENT			1+					1		
E. GLAMORGAN			1							
GOWER		1		1		1	1+	2		
CARMARTHEN								1		
PEMBROKE							1	1		
CEREDIGION		1					1	1	1	1
BRECON		1					1		2+	
RADNOR			5				5			
MEIRIONNYDD			2				2	2	1	
CAERNARFON			2							
ANGLESEY			2		1		1			
DENBIGH RSPB Conwy		1	5				1			

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

CUDYLL COCH

(C) Rather scarce breeding resident throughout Wales. Partial and passage migrant in small numbers to some counties. Wales Red-listed.

Incomplete breeding information includes: **GWENT**: Five breeding pairs; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Bred/pairs present at 8+ sites; **GOWER**: Bred or probably bred at four sites and present at another 9 sites; **CARMARTHEN**: One pair bred possibly two more; **PEMBROKE**: 28 territories found, an increase from the 22 last year. Of 11 nests monitored, 40 chicks fledged, an average of 3.6 chicks per successful pair; **CEREDIGION**: Four pairs bred. There has been a significant decrease in the breeding population in recent years; **BRECON**: Up to 7 breeding pairs were located; **MEIRIONNYDD**: 14+ territories were located; **CAERNARFON**: At least three pairs bred; **ANGLESEY**: At least 9 breeding territories.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

CUDYLL BACH

(B) Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber-listed. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding records included: **GWENT**: Birds seen at four sites during the breeding season, but no other evidence of breeding; **CARMARTHEN**: One pair bred, and a male was seen carrying prey in the breeding season at another site; **CEREDIGION**: One breeding record from the north of the county; **MONTGOMERY**: One pair bred at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, but failed at the mid egg stage. One other probable pair milling around, but not breeding. The decline continues; **MEIRIONNYDD**: No proof of breeding but at least two territories located.

A summary of non-breeding records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT	2	2	4	2				1	2	1		6
GOWER	7	3	3							2	3	2
PEMBROKE	11	5	6	7	1				1	5	12	8

CEREDIGION	10	4	1		1					9	5	7
BRECON		2	3									
MEIRIONNYDD	1			1						1		
CAERNARFON	7	3	3	5	2		1	2	2	8	2	2
ANGLESEY	8	6	6	3			1		3	7	9	7

E. GLAMORGAN: In the first winter period, singles were reported from 3rd Jan to 16th April at 12 coastal and 3 inland sites. In the second winter period, 1-2 birds were reported from 8th Oct to 27th Dec at 14 coastal and 3 inland locations.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

(B) Rare breeding summer visitor in at least four counties with a total breeding population of approximately 30 pairs. Elsewhere a rare passage migrant, although a few summer on occasion. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding information as follows: **GWENT:** Three successful pairs, fledging a total of 8y and two other pairs were unsuccessful; **E. GLAMORGAN:** At least one pair bred; **CARMARTHEN:** At least one pair bred; **CEREDIGION:** Breeding thought possible at one site; **BRECON:** At least 14 territories in suitable habitat; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Two possible breeding pairs.

Approximate monthly totals of non-breeding birds:

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
GWENT	3	1				2	2	
E. GLAMORGAN	1	1				3	1	
GOWER				2	1			
PEMBROKE		2		3	2	2	2	
CEREDIGION		3	1	3	4	2		
BRECON	2	2				1		
MEIRIONNYDD		2	1	2				
CAERNARFON			1	1				
ANGLESEY		2		2	1	1		
DENBIGH RSPB Conwy		1	1	2				

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

HEBOG TRAMOR

(C) Resident breeding species in all counties, increasing in recent years to a breeding population of more than 300 pairs. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding information as follows (not complete surveys): **GWENT:** Five breeding pairs located, of which 4 fledged young. The outcome of the fifth was not reported; **E. GLAMORGAN:** The South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group obtained information from forty of forty-four known Peregrines breeding territories. Territory occupancy continued to increase in the county and in 2011 an all-time high of thirty-six territories were known to be occupied. No information on breeding outcome was obtained for five of these occupied territories, whilst there were a further nine territories where no young were produced but it was not possible to determine if breeding was attempted

at these sites or if nesting attempts had failed. Breeding was proven at twenty-two sites with a minimum of 51 young fledged from nineteen of these, an average of 2.7 fledglings per successful nest; 2011 was the most productive year on record. There were only three known nest failures in 2011; **GOWER**: 2-3 pairs bred and present at 11 other suitable sites; **CARMARTHEN**: At least 12 territories located, with breeding confirmed at seven; **PEMBROKE**: A minimum of 43 occupied territories in the county, with at least 32 pairs attempting to breed and a minimum of 47y fledged. Some potential breeding sites lacked sufficient evidence to determine an outcome, but peregrines had a more productive season overall compared with 2010. Some coastal territories appeared to be unoccupied but there was further evidence of increasing occupancy of inland sites, which accounted for about 30% of all breeding season territories confirmed in 2011; **CEREDIGION**: Breeding was reported from just two inland sites and only one of these was successful, rearing two chicks. Although obviously under-reported the number of pairs and the productivity of nests has been falling steadily in recent years; **BRECON**: Visits to twenty-one current and past breeding sites were made under CCW licence by the South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group. A further seven sites were not visited. Monitoring indicated that twelve sites were occupied, of which nine held pairs and three just single non-breeding adults. Seven of the nine pairs were confirmed to have bred producing 12 fledged young. Breeding success was slightly better than 2010, probably aided by the warm, dry spring weather. The remaining two pairs, both at well-known sites and possibly a target for human interference, failed at the egg stage. Long-term monitoring has shown that established pairs breeding at traditional sites are remarkably tolerant of human activity, in 2011 successfully fledging young from noisy working quarries and within a major feature film-set; **MONTGOMERY**: Two pairs attempted breeding at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy. One fledged three chicks, the other failed, probably at the egg stage; **MEIRIONNYDD**: At least seven pairs located during the breeding season; **CAERNARFON**: Juveniles and family parties were reported around several cliffs and quarries. As in the previous five years, two pairs nested on Bardsey, one pair fledging three chicks and the other two chicks. Productivity at 2.50 was thus the highest recorded since 2007; **ANGLESEY**: A pair bred at South Stack, with 2 young fledged on 21st July.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

RHEGEN Y DWR

(C) A scarce breeding resident, more commonly recorded as a passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding records received were: **GWENT**: The annual breeding season survey, carried out at NWR in April, revealed only two breeding pairs, a substantial reduction on the eight pairs found in 2010; **GOWER**: Probably bred at Kenfig Reedbeds, present in the breeding season at Oxwich, Crymlyn Burrows and Pant-y-Sais; **CARMARTHEN**: Bred at Penclacwydd and Glynea Pond, Bynea; **PEMBROKE**: At least 3 pairs bred on the Teifi Marshes; **CEREDIGION**: During the breeding season pairs were present at Glandwr, Cors Fochno and RSPB Ynys-hir and probably at Cors Caron; **BRECON**: A minimal presence in Llangasty reedbeds in the first winter period puts into doubt whether birds bred at Llangorse, though by late March there were calling birds in two reedbeds where regular breeding occurs. Calling was heard on six dates in August, but there was no evidence of breeding there; **RADNOR**: Found at 6 sites in the breeding season; **ANGLESEY**: One at Cors Goch on the 1st June.

It was noted in GWENT that numbers were dramatically reduced from those of 2010, due to the severe winter. Maximum autumn & winter concentrations were:

		J	F	M	A		A	S	O	N	D
GWENT	NWR				5			1	2	1	6
E. GLAMORGAN	Tirfounder Fields			1					2	3	6
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	1	2	1			2		3	5	3
PEMBROKE	Skomer						3	5	10		
CEREDIGION	Teifi Estuary	2	1	3				2	2	3	3
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	1	2	2			1+		3	5	8
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	2		1				1	5	4	
ANGLESEY	Malltraeth Marsh									5	8

Other notable counts (4+): **E. GLAMORGAN**: 4 at Kenfig Dunes on 9th Jan, and in the second winter period 10 during a WeBS count at Kenfig NNR on 16th Oct and 8 at Kenfig river mouth on 5th Nov; **GOWER**: 11 at Oxwich on 1st Jan and up to 4 at Kenfig Reedbeds; **CARMARTHEN**: 4 at Kidwelly Quay on 16th Nov; **PEMBROKE**: 5+ at both the Teifi Marshes on 6th Jan and at Ritec, Tenby on 1st Nov; **ANGLESEY**: 4 were at Soldier's Point on the 22nd Jan.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*

RHEGEN YR YD

(A) *Rare passage migrant, on WRP list. Wales Red-listed.*

CAERNARFON: A female on Bardsey from at least 21st July to 1st Aug, with an immature bird there on 27th-28th Oct.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

IAR DDWR

(C) *A locally common breeding resident and winter visitor, widespread throughout Wales.*

Breeding records were: **GWENT**: Bred at 8 sites, including 11 prs with at least 35 juvs on the Mon-Brecon canal, 14 Locks to Pontywaun; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding was confirmed at eleven well spread sites in the southern half of the recording area; **GOWER**: Bred at 13 sites; **CARMARTHEN**: Bred at Penclacwydd (19+ broods); **CEREDIGION**: Breeding was recorded at six sites: Nanteos lake, Llanerchaeron, Nant yr Arian, Llyn Frongoch and Bwlchcryws pond where two broods were reared. 10 or so pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir; **BRECON**: Very dry conditions at Brechfa Pool during the spring led to breeding failure there, but 2 pairs bred successfully at Penlan Ponds, Brecon. Breeding success was also logged at Llangattock Canal, and in July 2 chicks accompanied pairs at both Gofynne Pool and Cradoc Pool, and a single chick at Craig-y-nos CP northern pool; **CAERNARFON**: Four pairs produced at least 13 young in five broods on Bardsey. Four further pairs were not proven to breed. Productivity was 1.63, a level 54.3% below the 2002-2011 mean and the lowest Moorhen productivity figure so far recorded on Bardsey; **ANGLESEY**: Bred at Cemlyn, with 3 fledged young seen in mid-July, and an adult and a large juvenile seen at the end of the month.

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (40 or more at least once) are tabulated as available:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT: Mon-Brecon Canal												
Pontywaun-14 Locks	29	41	23	16	5			57		45	46	46
14 Locks-Cwmbran	25		47			88			87	83		101
Cwmbran-Pontypool	46								47			
PEMBROKE												
Freshwaters (WeBS)	139	85	77						68	82	98	90
Bosherston	43	22	16						38	21		21
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	60	52	26	26	21	63	27	165	17	56	37	61

Other large counts were **GOWER**: 40 at Llanrhidian on 2nd Feb; **ANGLESEY**: 40 at Llyn Cefni on 22nd Aug.

COOT *Fulica atra*

CWTIAR

(C) A locally common breeding resident and winter visitor, widespread throughout Wales.

Breeding records were: **GWENT**: Bred at 8 sites, including 18 broods with 23 young at Uskmouth reed beds; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding was confirmed at sixteen widespread sites; **GOWER**: Bred at 11 sites and probably bred at one other; **CARMARTHEN**: Bred at Penclacwydd (5+ broods); **CEREDIGION**: The only breeding records were of two pairs which bred at RSPB Ynys-hir and a pair with two large young at Maesllyn pool at Llangwryfon on 26th June; **BRECON**: Nests were constructed at a minimum of six locations: Pentrefelin, Talybont, Buckland Pool, Brechfa, Ty Mawr Pool and Cradoc pool, with a total breeding population of approximately 12 pairs. No nests or juvs. were reported at Llangorse. Predation was high, and few juveniles fledged; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at two sites in the east of the county; **ANGLESEY**: Bred at Cemlyn, with 2 juveniles known to have survived the summer.

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites, with 100 or more at least once, are tabulated as available:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
NWR	59	93	74	26	28	49	58	75	105	102	91	75
Wentwood Res	76	65	17	10	6	11	4	28	78	66	122	66
Ynysyfro Resrs	343	195	40	13	22	41	85	148	164	34	54	90
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay		220					70	156				
CBWR		62	4							119	80	60
Cosmeston	105	76	62	48	32	58	72	116	133	102	96	98
Hensol Lake	45	46	34	22	28	30	37	61	-	75	56	109

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Kenfig Pool	552	295	61	11	3	-	9	17	75	153	196	312
Roath Park Lake	80	-	47	37	59	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
GOWER												
Eglwys Nynydd R.	100	70	21	4	13	22	16	29	21	24	26	11
PEMBROKE												
Freshwaters (WeBS)	316	199	69						29	40	16	50
Bosherston	163	110	17						19	22		34
BRECON												
Llangorse	472	278	143	nc	nc	3	19	28	45	93	287	409
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Cefni										233		116
Llyn Coron	50										50	345
Llyn Maelog						171	182	127				

Other large counts were: **ANGLESEY**: 193 on Llyn Rhos Ddu on 1st Dec.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

GARAN

(A) *Rare visitor from Europe, on WRP list.*

There were 2 at Llanfairynghornwy **ANGLESEY** on 21st April.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

PIODEN Y MOR

(C) *A common, chiefly coastal, breeding species and abundant winter visitor to all coastal areas of Wales. Wales Amber-listed.*

Breeding records were **GWENT**: Breeding records were an improvement on the single confirmed records of each of the last two years. There was an adult with 3 chicks at Goldcliff, a nest with 2 eggs at Peterstone Wentlooge, a bird on a nest at St Brides Wentlooge, a pair with 2 juvs at Uskmouth power station, 3 ad with 1 fledgling at Uskmouth reed beds and 2 ad with one chick at Collister Pill; **GOWER**: One pair at Brunel Docks Jetty on eggs until 14th June, but disturbed by fishermen. Single pairs at Afan Estuary and Port Talbot Docks; **CARMARTHEN**: As in 2010 a pair attempted to breed at Penclacwydd, but was unsuccessful; **PEMBROKE**: Evidence of breeding noted at 12 locations, mostly as single pairs. The main breeding population was on Skomer, where 38 territories were recorded, and where mating was first observed on 20th April and the first chicks were seen on 26th May. The only other breeding concentrations comprised eight nests on Caldey Island and eight territories along the Castlemartin coast; **CEREDIGION**: A pair bred successfully at Aberarth and a pair with two large young by the Leri at Ynyslas. At Aberaeron a pair attempted to nest on a shingle ridge but soon failed and the outcome of a nesting attempt by New Quay Head was unknown. Four pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir; **BRECON**: One stayed at Llangorse until at least 16th April, holding territory at Llangasty, but failed to attract a mate; **MEIRIONNYDD**: A pair on the Dee at Corwen on 4th June were possibly breeding; **CAERNARFON**: A minimum of 85 pairs held territory on Bardsey. 52 nests were located and monitored to a conclusion. They contained 141 eggs, a mean clutch size

of 2.71. Although slightly down on last year, this is the second largest average clutch size yet to be recorded. Of these nests, 31 failed at the egg/small chick stage, nine failed with chicks and 12 were successful. A total of 14 chicks fledged from the 12 successful attempts, which gives a productivity figure of 0.27 chicks per pair, 25% down on last year and 65.4% lower than the 2002-2011 mean. A further three fledglings were noted elsewhere; **ANGLESEY**: 11 nests on the Skerries, with a tetrad estimate of 18 pairs. They also bred at Cemlyn, with 7 juveniles surviving to the end of the summer.

Sizeable flocks of this species occur all round the Welsh coast and the monthly max. for the main sites (holding counts of 1,000 at least once) are tabulated as known.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Aberavon Beach	1800	1200	15				270	220	2300	2000		70
Blackpill	2281	1830	832	146	144	91	1120	1457	2260	2374	2769	2162
Jersey Mar./Crumlyn	1458	950	650	7	150	199	530	220	2300	2000		700
Burry (S)	7770	4435	750	320	1	1330	1460	3710	6045	6360	6410	7260
Neath Est/Baglan	1000						848	1247				
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	2430			400	2	2				1100	3090	3750
C. Sidan/Tywyn P.	7323	3072	3456							4500	2791	3550
Gwendraeth	1022	1955	78						745	2161	2520	1560
Tywi	1682	477	81						2373	1582	1667	1370
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	5919	4152	1610	60				2630	4623	6732	4566	4397

Other notable counts were: **GOWER**: 1,200 at Broughton Bay on 8th Jan.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

CAMBIG

(B) Breeds in Gwent, but elsewhere a scarce visitor. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: All records came from NWR. Breeding season monitoring showed 17 pairs nested but, as in all recent years, productivity was very low; only five young were fledged, a success rate of 0.29 young per pair. Thus, while the hatching rate was a little higher, predation pressures were severe. Monthly maxima were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NWR		10	42	40	30	38	32	26	70	50		

CARMARTHEN: The wintering bird remained in the Llansteffan/Ferryside/St. Ishmael area to 24th Feb. It was then seen at Carmarthen Bay Caravan Site on 7th Dec and at Llansteffan from 24th into 2012. These records presumably relate to a single bird, first noted at Llansteffan on 19th Oct 2003, which has returned to the area each winter since. The only other record was of one at Penclacwydd on 12th March; **PEMBROKE**: One was seen at Sprinkle Pill on 13th & 19th Feb, **MEIRIONNYDD**: One on Fairbourne beach on 11th April; **ANGLESEY**: There were 2 on Malltraeth Cob Pools on 26th May.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*

RHEDWR Y MOELYDD

(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list.

There were two records from **CEREDIGION**, one at Llanrhystud on 21st April and one at Ynyslas on 15th May. One was found on 17th Aug feeding on a rough grass reseed on a field above Bedlwyn Farm, Crai, **BRECON**, adjacent to Glasfynydd Forest. This is the second Breconshire record.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

(C) A summer visitor, breeding in small numbers on the gravel shoals of rivers in south and east Wales and on industrial sites in north-east Wales. Elsewhere it is an uncommon passage migrant.

GWENT: The earliest spring sighting was one on 16th March on the Caerleon flooded field. Breeding was recorded only at one inland site where two nests, each with four eggs, were seen on 26th April; their success or otherwise was not known. Although a bird was seen at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 4th June, no breeding was recorded there this year. On autumn passage there were up to seven birds at NWR Goldcliff lagoons, with the last two at NWR on 10th Sept; **E. GLAMORGAN:** The first report was at Llanilid on 8th April with a high count of 20 here on 27th April. 2 pairs bred at the Llanilid opencast site, with one nest unusually situated at the base of a willow. The last record was of two at Llanilid on 31st July; **GOWER:** Recorded from 6th April. Bred at Port Talbot Harbour at Sand Quarry and surroundings, with a pair and two chicks on 24th May. Probably bred at Velindre former tinplate works, with up to 3 birds present on 6th April, and at two sites at B.P. Baglan, with 2 pairs seen on 15th April. On autumn passage, a "family party" of 2 adults and 3 juveniles at Castell-du on the Upper Loughor on 25th Aug; **CARMARTHEN:** The first spring record was of one at Pentre-Davis on 22nd March. There were 61-62 pairs on the Tywi and tributaries, a slight decline compared to recent years, perhaps due to habitat succession and river 'improvements' on the tributaries. It seems to have been a productive season, with an early start - some clutches noted by mid April, due to sunny and dry conditions. Many fully-fledged youngsters were observed at several locations including Pentre-Davis, Dinefwr Ponds, Ro-Fawr, Llanarthne and Dryslwyn; **PEMBROKE:** The only records were one on North Pond Skomer on 8th April and juveniles, at Marloes Mere on 14th Aug and at Whitesands Beach on 2nd Sept; **CEREDIGION:** The first of the year was at Tŷ Gwyn pools on 16th March, followed by one at RSPB Ynys-hir on 28th March. Five were then recorded at Cors Caron on 18th April. There were further sightings at Tŷ Gwyn pools on 13th May and on 30th May when one was seen on a nest. Three were recorded there the following day; **BRECON:** Pairs were seen at Llangasty, Talybont Reservoir and Ystrad Quarry, the latter being the only site recording breeding success with two small chicks noted from 9th June. None of the traditional breeding sites on river shingle banks along the Usk and Wye were visited in 2011; **RADNOR:** 4 pairs on the Lower Wye; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Two at Llyn Tegid on 20th May with four on 26th May; **CAERNARFON:** There were 3 immature birds at Morfa Dinlle on 21st Aug and one at Y Foryd on 29th Aug; **ANGLESEY:** There was one near Cors Crygyl on 28th March; **DENBIGH:** Recorded at RSPB Conwy from 19th April, one pair bred here.

RINGED PLOVER *C. hiaticula***CWTIAD TORCHOG**

(C) A scarce breeder, concentrated principally in the north-west (Llyn peninsula and Anglesey) and the mid-section of the south coast. It is also a common passage migrant and winter visitor to all coastal areas. Wales Amber-listed.

Records of breeding or possible breeding were: **GWENT**: There were only two breeding records this year, neither of which was known to be successful. An adult was on a nest at Cleppa Park on 29th May and a nest with two eggs at West Usk lighthouse on 11th June; **E. GLAMORGAN**: One breeding report, a pair nesting on rough ground opposite the Ice Rink at Cardiff Bay, the outcome unknown; **GOWER**: Single pairs probably bred at Berges Island, Whiteford, at Velindre former tinplate work, at Queen's Dock, Swansea and at Port Talbot Docks; **CARMARTHEN**: Bred at Burry Port; **CEREDIGION**: The sole breeding record was from Aberaeron where a nesting attempt was soon abandoned. A pair was reported to be nesting there on 18th June, although the outcome was unknown. During the breeding season two pairs were present at Ynyslas; **CAERNARFON**: Pairs with young were recorded at Porth y Nant (SH364448) and on Nefyn beach. One pair bred on Bardsey, fledging 6 young in two broods; **ANGLESEY**: One pair bred rearing 3 young in Fryars Bay, a pair fledged 3 young at Soldier's Point, Holyhead, and 2 chicks hatched on Traeth Crygyl beach on the 3rd July. Birds attempted to breed at Cemlyn, but with no evidence of any fledged young. They probably bred at Plas Penrhyn and 6 were on Llanddwyn beach on the 10th June.

Counts at the main sites, with 100 or more recorded at least once, were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
St Brides Wentlooge	60	25	2	6	120	48	35	100	160	18	0	29
GOWER												
Burry (S)	30					100		10	800		50	
Blackpill	167	45	57				2	226	212	265	560	436
Crumlyn Burri/Jersey M	8	88	21	15	2		2	30	172	59	172	133
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth	7							121	20		20	13
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi	3	8	11	304	500	4	22	552	580	47	43	32
Llanrhystud	4	5		4	12			100	35		9	3
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	25	2	4					41	123	0	2	0
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary					164				194			

Other large counts were: **GWENT**: An exceptional count of 309 at West Usk lighthouse on 9th Sept; **PEMBROKE**: 100 at Kilpaison on 7th Sept; **MEIRIONNYDD**: 310 at Morfa Harlech on 4th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: 150+ were in Beddmanarch Bay on the 11th Oct. There was a 1,000 bird strong mixed flock comprising this species and Dunlin on

Malltraeth Sands on the 14th May.

Inland records were **E. GLAMORGAN**: 4 at Rhaslas Pond nr Merthyr on 2nd Sept; **CEREDIGION**: three at Cors Caron on 1st May; **BRECON**: Fewer records than normal, all of which involved autumn migrants. One at Talybont Reservoir on 17th Aug, followed by 2 juvs. at Llangasty on 24th – 26th with one remaining the following day. In Sept, 2 were at Llangasty on 4th – 11th, with 3 present on 13th; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Four on Llyn Tegid on 18th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: 5 were at Llyn Cefni on the 31st Aug and one flew over Mynydd Bodafon on the 1st Sept.

DOTTEREL *C. morinellus*

HUTAN Y MYNYDD

(A) *An occasional breeder, otherwise a regular but uncommon migrant in spring and autumn.*

Spring records were: **E. GLAMORGAN**: A typically confiding pair were found on Cadair Fawr, Cefn Cadlan on 1st May and were present until 3rd; **CARMARTHEN**: Spring passage records from Garreg Lwyd were of 3 on 23rd April and 1 on 10th May with 4 near the headwaters of the Aman Fach on 12th; **PEMBROKE**: Two on Ramsey on 23rd-24th April; **RADNOR**: 3 records of 2-4 birds at 3 sites between 30th April and 10th May; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One on Carnedd y Filiast on 11th May; **CAERNARFON**: There was one on the Great Orme on the very early date of 9th -10th April, with 8 here on 18th April. The only record from the Carneddau was 5 on Llwytmor on 18th May. 6 were reported near the summit of Garnedd Goch on the Nantlle Ridge on 1st May and two on Glyder Fawr on 8th May.

On return passage: **CARMARTHEN**: The only autumn record was of 2 at Garreg Lwyd on 19th Aug; **PEMBROKE**: A juvenile in a newly sown field at Kete on 19th Sept; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Three adults at Sirior, Berwyn on 14th Oct; **CAERNARFON**: There was one at the Great Orme on 28th Sept.

No records were received in **CEREDIGION** for the first time since 2006.

2010 : CAERNARFON: 11 on Foel Grach on 9th May 2010.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *P. fulva*

CORGWTIAD AUR

(A) *Very rare vagrant, on WRP list.*

A moulting adult was discovered on the foreshore near the West Usk lighthouse, St Brides **GWENT** on 23rd Sept and was seen up until 25th Sept This is the first county record of this transatlantic vagrant.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

CWTIAD AUR

(C) *A scarce and declining breeding species, found chiefly on the upland plateaux of Denbigh, Radnor, Ceredigion and Brecon. Wales Red-listed.*

Breeding records or records indicating possible breeding were: **CARMARTHEN**: Possibly bred on Mynydd Du where a pair was holding territory on 12th May; **BRECON**:

In late-April, two females and a male apparently holding territory were on Mynydd Llangynidr. During May/June, surveys over most of the potential breeding sites in the Black Mountains, found four pairs on territory at one location, and another single pair on a second top. Presence of chicks was suspected but not proven; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Three males and three females in breeding plumage at Carnedd y Filiast, Gylchedd on 12th April and one on Cadair Idris in suitable breeding habitat on 27th March and 17th April. Three adults at Cadwst, Berwyn in different areas on 19th May, with two birds at Cadwst Mawr here on the same date which could be different birds.

Records are rather incomplete but monthly max. at major wintering areas (holding 400 at least once) are tabulated as available:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. GLAMORGAN	Sker Pt area	156	2	235	120	3	2	32	500	512
GOWER	Burry (S)	100	1540	200	65			505	2200	
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	1300	800							
	Gwendraeth	272	368	470				308	700	1000
PEMBROKE	Cleddau WeBS	4	73					815	2350	1259
	Castlemartin / Angle	1000	250						80	600
BRECON	Llandefalle Hill/ My. Fforest									
CEREDIGION	Dyfi Est.	60	40	150	40		25	1400	1600	1600
MEIRIONNYDD	Broadwater							130	600	155

Other large winter flocks in coastal counties were: **PEMBROKE**: 2,000+ between Croesgoch and Carnhedryn on 3rd Dec, c.1,000 on the Ranges on 4th Jan, 800 at Lawrenny on 24th Nov; **ANGLESEY**: 450 at Hen Borth in January. In the second winter period, 500 were at Porth Cwyfan on the 20th Nov, 1,000+ at Rhosneigr on the 19th Dec and 700+ were at Pen Lôn, Braint Estuary, on the 27th Dec.

Large inland counts included: **CARMARTHEN**: 300 on Mynydd Sylen on 5th March and c150 on Mynydd Llanfihangel-rhos-y-corn on 26th Oct; **RADNOR**: 20 at Llandeilo Hill on 18th Oct; **BRECON**: 200 over Llandefalle Hill on 8th March and 327 in a roost here on 12th March. 142, possibly part of the Llandefalle Hill flock, were feeding on farmland near Brechfa Pool on 15th April, and there were 140 at Waunhirwaun on 22nd March. During autumn passage, 455 on Mynydd Fforest on 23rd Oct and 100+ on Mynydd Illtyd on 22nd Oct. 150-170 were on Llandefalle Hill on 29th October. There were 280 on Llangoed Common on 14th Nov (possibly the same flock reduced to 156 nearby on Mynydd Fforest on 26th), 292 fed on Llandefalle Hill on 3rd Dec, with probably the same flock of 258 on 5th. Winter Atlas surveying on MOD Epynt found 120 on upland grassland at Drovers Arms above Upper Chapel on 25th November.

GREY PLOVER *P. squatarola*

CWTIAD LLWYD

(C) A widespread and common winter visitor to Welsh estuaries and spring & autumn migrant. Wales Red-listed.

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	29	14	10	3	8		3	20	7	35	10	120
GOWER												
Burry (S)	340	205	40								15	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	11	72							4	1	7	18
PEMBROKE												
Freshwater West to Blucks Pool	73	32								2		
ANGLESEY												
Alaw Estuary		156	39		2		4	7	7	28	85	57
Traeth Melynog	92		2							27		29

Other large counts included: **E. GLAMORGAN:** 54 at RGW on 2nd Dec; **CAERNARFON:** 41 near Fort Belan on 8th Jan.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

CORNCHWIGLEN

(C) *Rapidly declining breeder – almost extinct as a breeder in many counties. It is also a winter visitor, principally in coastal areas and especially when there is hard weather to the east. Wales Red-listed.*

Breeding records received were: **GWENT:** At least eight and possibly ten broods were recorded, fewer than last year but with no records received from Llanfair Kilgeddin this year. NWR counts were well down on last year's totals throughout the summer. 3 nests with 4 young at Llandeudau, 5 breeding pairs at Brynmawr on 20th April, 4 small chicks seen at Newport and 2 pairs holding territory at Michaelstone y fedw with one chick seen; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Breeding was confirmed at Kenfig saltmarsh, Llanilid opencast (6 nests with eggs) and Parc Slip NR. At Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Maesteg two pairs were incubating on 5th June but both nests were deserted after two and a half weeks. Elsewhere a pair appeared to be sitting on a nest in a ploughed field at Clemenstone on 6th May but the outcome was not known. Pairs were seen in display over the east pool fields at Kenfig NNR on 13th and 15th March, and 2 pairs were displaying nr Llancaiach ST119 on 27th March; **GOWER:** Up to 7 pairs bred at Whiteford NNR, with flying young seen on 6th June, up to 9 pairs at B.P. Baglan, 3 pairs at Port Talbot Harbour Sand Quarry and surrounds and three pairs at Port Talbot Docks, but no sign of young here on 24th May; **CARMARTHEN:** At Penclacwydd 4 pairs bred, but no young were fledged. Four or five pairs bred at Ffos-las and a pair was present during the breeding season at Dinefwr Ponds; **PEMBROKE:** The only report of breeding came from Ramsey, where two pairs fledged just two young in total; **CEREDIGION:** 55 pairs bred at RSPB Ynyshir and eight pairs at the Glandwr part of Cors Fochno. During the breeding season there were 3-4 pairs in the Gwnnws-Tyn y Graig area where some chicks were seen and pairs was also present at Glan pond, Ffair Rhos and at Olmarch pool. Breeding took place at Tŷ Gwyn pools where all nests failed. Four birds were observed displaying at Cors Caron on 21st April; **BRECON:** Monitoring at breeding sites was reduced in 2011 due to Atlas surveying away from

Lapwing areas, with data received as follows: Bryn-tywarch, Cwmwysg (wet grassland) 2 pairs, Daudraeth Illtyd (upland pool/grassland) 1 pair, Slwch Farm (arable fields) 3 displaying males, Llangasty Church (wet grassland) 1 pair + 1 chick, Middlewood Farm, Bwlch (grass/arable fields) 1 pair + 2 chicks, Garnlydan (moorland) 1 pair failed, Pontybat Farm, Llanfilo (arable fields) 1 pair + 2 chicks, Brechfa Pool (pool/grassland) 1 pair + 2 chicks; **RADNOR**: 19 pairs found in early spring, a further decline; **CAERNARFON**: Two pairs were displaying near Pencaenewydd on 9th April; **ANGLESEY**: Birds were present in the breeding season near Rhosgoch, Llangwythog, Hendre, Malltraeth and Cors Erddreiniog.

Regular counts at the main wintering areas (holding counts of 500 at least once) are tabulated as available.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	1053	686	45	50	503	1672	1000
GOWER	Burry (S)	1705	1880	3		90	1640	
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	1217	651	14	46	64	796	861
	Gwendraeth	2000	444	6		122	993	2000
	Tywi	445				54	649	392
	Taf	534	200			131	610	
PEMBROKE	Cleddau WeBS	1146	2155	1		139	1667	2007
	Castlemartin area	3800	650	4	2		700	900
CEREDIGION	Dyfi Est.	1000	243	92	38	1400	1830	1845
	Tŷ Gwyn pools		250	35		135	610	
MEIRIONNYDD	Broadwater	0	600	8	18	143	-	250
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	208	303	91	143	145	381	527
ANGLESEY	Braint estuary	104				80	700	2000
	Cemlyn	810	385	4	8	234	700	
	Cymyran St	344	17			407	1350	437
	Malltraeth						198	800

Other large flocks were: **PEMBROKE**: c1,500 at Trehill Farm near Martin's Haven; **ANGLESEY**: 2,400 were at the Inland Sea on 22nd Dec and there were several flocks containing 200 – 500 birds around Llanfaelog throughout December. In **BRECON**, a maximum count of 30 birds anywhere in the county, at any season, was said to be a reflection of how critically low a level the local Lapwing population has now reached.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

PIBYDD YR ABER

(C) An abundant winter visitor to some of the major estuaries, notably the Dee, Burry, Traeth Lafan and Severn. Relatively scarce on other estuaries. It is also an uncommon passage migrant in spring & autumn and it is rare inland. Wales Amber-listed.

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 300 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Wlooge	350	210						1	300	2	3000	100
GOWER												
Burry (S)	4270	3000	120						80	525	350	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	290	1000	306	110	26		1	40	358	379	850	450
C. Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	2000	1341										
Gwendraeth	1000	140					1	7				3000
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	440	110	30					7	90	154	1	32
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog	187		19							24		612

Other large flocks were: **GWENT**: 450 at Nash Pools on 16th Oct and 500 there on 5th Nov; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 400 at Rumney Great Wharf on 2nd Dec.

SANDERLING *C. alba*

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

(*C*) A winter visitor, locally common on sandy beaches in Flint, Carmarthen and Glam-organ. A spring & autumn migrant on the coast. Scarce inland. Wales Amber-listed.

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Aberavon Beach	140	169	74	2	29	34		161	170	2		220
Blackpill	291	110	220		5		14	27	60	390	440	281
Crumlyn												
Burr/Jersey M	55	85	130	240	1		8	80	250	367		363
Margam Sands	22						50				65	
CARMARTHEN												
C. Sidan/Tywyn Pt	1136	15	30		146					170	533	770
Pendine	182	410	672									
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas	9			9	30		51	100	23	12	11	5
MEIRIONNYDD												
Morfa Harlech									132		165	131

One at Tŷ Gwyn pools **CEREDIGION** on 31st May was the fourth inland record for the county, and the 165 at Morfa Harlech on 13th Nov was a county record for **MEIRIONNYDD**. Other large flocks were **E. GLAMORGAN**: 180 at Sker Pt on 25th April, c.50 on Flat Holm on 27th April. On return passage, 130 at Sker Pt on 3rd Aug 60 at Kenfig rivermouth on 6th Aug, 59 at Kenfig Sands on 3rd Sept; **GOWER**: 65 at Mumbles Foreshore on 27th Feb, 67 at Port Talbot Harbour on 17th April; **CARMARTHEN**: 125+ at Burry Port on 26th Nov; **PEMBROKE**: A total of 57 were

logged passing Strumble Head (July – September); **CAERNARFON**: 67 on Black Rock Sands on 12th March. In the second winter period, 53 at Morfa Madryn on 16th Sept;

LITTLE STINT *C. minuta*

PIBYDD BACH

(B) An uncommon passage migrant in small numbers to coastal areas, principally in autumn and has occasionally wintered. It is rare inland.

Approximate monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT									4	4		
GOWER									6	12		8
E. GLAMORGAN							2		6			
CARMARTHEN								1	2			
PEMBROKE									1		1	
CEREDIGION								8	8			
MEIRIONNYDD									1			
CAERNARFON								1				
ANGLESEY			2		1	1						
DENBIGH (*)							1		2			

(*) RSPB Conwy only

Two were reported in Beddmanarch Bay **ANGLESEY** on the unusual date of 30th March.

TEMMINCK'S STINT

Calidris temmincki

PIBYDD TEMMINCK

(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list.

DENBIGH: There was one at Conwy RSPB on 3rd May.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER

Calidris fuscicollis

PIBYDD TINWEN

(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list.

GOWER: A juvenile on saltings, between Landimore, Weobley and Causeway Tower on 21st, 24th and 30th Sept; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Two on the Broadwater on 5th Nov with one present on 6th -7th. This is the first record for the county.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

Calidris melanotos

PIBYDD CAIN

(A) A scarce visitor, on WRP list.

GWENT: There were two records this year: an adult was present briefly at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 30th July and a juvenile was on a small pool on the foreshore near the West Usk lighthouse, St Brides, from 21st to 22nd Sept. The species has been recorded in Gwent in 10 out of the last 13 years; **GOWER**: Recorded on saltings,

between Landimore, Weobley and Causeway Tower on 5 separate days from 21st Sept to 3rd Oct, with up to two birds on 22nd-23rd Sept and a juvenile on 24th Sept; **PEMBROKE**: The only accepted record was of two on Skokholm, 13th – 14th May, with one remaining on the 15th; **CEREDIGION**: One was present in July at Glandwr, Cors Fochno on 23rd, 27th and 28th and 30th, the 11th in Ceredigion.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *C. ferruginea*

PIBYDD CAMBIG

(B) An uncommon passage migrant to coastal areas, recorded in every month but principally in autumn, relatively numerous in some years. Rare inland.

GWENT: The only spring passage records were of a single bird in summer plumage at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 2nd, 3rd and 7th May. As usual, autumn passage sightings were more numerous, covering the period 21st Aug to 17th Oct. There were six at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 3rd Sept and five there on 4th Sept. Numbers peaked on 9th Sept, with six at the St. Brides roost and five at Goldcliff lagoons; up to four birds were then seen regularly at both sites through Sept and into early Oct. The highest October count was of six birds at Goldcliff lagoons on 4th. The last sightings were of a single bird at Goldcliff on 14th-15th Oct and two at Peterstone Wentlooge on 17th Oct; **GOWER**: Recorded at Blackpill from 27th Aug to 21st Sept and on 7th Oct, max 4 on 10th Sept. Also recorded in the Burry Inlet at Weobley Causeway and Tower from 11th to 30th Sept, max 8 on 25th Sept. One at Loughor foreshore on 25th Sept; **CARMARTHEN**: An adult at Penclacwydd on 18th Aug, followed by singles at Carmarthen Bay Caravan Park on 20th, Kidwelly Quay on 21st and Llanelli Beach on 31st. The best counts were from Kidwelly Quay with 2 on 3rd Sept, 3 on 5th, 7 on 19th, 5 on 25th, 4 on 2nd Oct, 2 from 4th-9th and one on 19th. At Penclacwydd there were singles from 17th-21st Sept and 2nd-16th Oct; **PEMBROKE**: There were four juveniles at Nevern Est on 30th and 31st Aug and five there on 4th Sept. Elsewhere, singles at The Gann on 1st - 4th Sept, with two there on 3rd. Thereafter, two birds were at Kilpaison on 7th Sept and a single bird was at the Teifi Est on 10th & 11th Sept; **CEREDIGION**: Two at Ynyslas on 26th Aug, followed by three there on 30th and one on 31st. During September, five were at Ynyslas on 2nd and four at RSPB Ynys-hir on 9th. One was at the Teifi est. on 10th and 11th and the remaining records came from Ynyslas: 11 on 12th, one on 14th, two on 17th and three on 29th; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One on the Broadwater on 28th Aug and 12 at Morfa Harlech on 4th Sept; **CAERNARFON**: There were 3 at Morfa Madryn on 3rd Sept, a juvenile here on 4th Sept, 3 at Rhos Point on 8th Sept and one at Pwllheli harbour on 25th Sept. On Bardsey, one flew south with six Dunlin on 16th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: Recorded at Malltraeth Cob Pools from 25th Aug to 1st Oct, max 10 on 2nd Sept, and at the Alaw estuary from 3rd to 20th Sept, peaking at 16 on 11th Sept. 1-3 birds were recorded in late August and early September at Traeth Dulas, Cemlyn and past Point Lynas. The last record was one on Traeth Llugwy on 8th Oct; **DENBIGH**: Singles were recorded at Conwy RSPB on 6th May and 1st June. Autumn passage began with two on 19th Aug and peaked at 13 on 31st Aug. The last record was one on 23rd Oct.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *C. maritima*

PIBYDD DU

(C) A fairly common winter visitor in small numbers to coastal areas with rocky shorelines

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 10 at least once) are tabulated as available:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug.	Sep.	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. GLAMORGAN											
Ogmore	12	20	4						5	6	
Sker Pt	8	1		16	18					1	
GOWER											
Port Talbot Harbour	10									4	4
CEREDIGION											
Aberystwyth	10	9	17	9	3				2	14	10
CAERNARFON											
Bardsey	23	20	24	18	18	4	3	16	23	36	21
Rhos Point	2	2								2	23
ANGLESEY											
Trearddur	1									14	
Cemlyn	3		6	1					8	14	

Other counts of 10 or more were: **GOWER**: 10 at Margam Breakwater on 9th Jan and at Port Talbot Corus Embankment in May; **PEMBROKE**: On Ramsey, birds present March – April, and July – November, max. 12 on 26th March.

There was one inland record, when autumn storms forced one inland onto Claerwen Reservoir Dam and outflow river in **RADNOR** on 15th Sept then on the **BRECON** half of the dam on 16th Sept. This is the first record in Brecon since May 1977.

DUNLIN *C. alpina*

PIBYDD Y MAWN

(C) A scarce and local breeder, restricted to a few poorly drained upland moors with scattered pools. An abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red-listed.

Records of breeding or possible breeding were: **BRECON**: Visits to former breeding sites, the most southerly in the UK, were rewarded by a pair engaged in their 'fluttery' display flight over suitable habitat at one traditional site in late-April, and males on territory at two other sites in late-June; **MEIRIONNYDD**: A pair in an area in West Berwyn on 28th March but not recorded after this date.

Occurs in all Welsh estuaries and the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 1,000 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Wentlooge	2500	2000	67	50	700	29	57	100	470	350	2000	1000
NWR		1220	160	150	35	55	2	25	17	70	400	
Undy foreshore	2200		80	45		5					2250	1600

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. GLAMORGAN												
Rumney Gt Wharf	1000		230								1000	3000
GOWER												
Burry (S)	5820	11000	640		55		710	1450	1510	1700	10120	2200
Blackpill	2040	2800	1080	13	191	51	7	230	125	580	2500	1684
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	925	400	1	1			9	3	4	36	8	1450
Gwendraeth	360	68	12				19	27	850	147	2500	362
PEMBROKE												
Cledau WeBS	3186	4709	477					15	77	203	1644	2828
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi	100	97	139	675	850		107	1500	1000	476	500	647
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3042	2353	90					24	288	46	886	919

Inland sightings included: **CARMARTHEN**: One at Pentre-Davis on 8th May and 2 at Dryslwyn Uchaf on 2nd June; **CEREDIGION**: One at Cors Caron on 1st May; **BRECON**: 3 at Llangasty on 2nd March, then 2 there on 9th. Movements resumed at Llangasty again on 5th May when 4 s/p birds were present with 2 remaining the next day, and 3 on 29th. Reports of passage birds in autumn/late-year all involved singles at Llangorse on 18th July, and then 8th and 16th Oct, 18th Nov and 4th Dec; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Four on Llyn Tegid on 26th May and four again here on 18th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: Single birds at Llyn Cefni on 22nd and 31st Aug.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* **PIBYDD BRONLLWYD**
(A) Rare visitor, on WRP list.

There was an influx into the south-west of the UK in September, reflected in some Welsh counties. **GOWER**: A juvenile at Weobley Saltmarsh on 21st, 24th and 29th Sept; **PEMBROKE**: Two at Stackpole on 21st Sept, three at Dale Airfield 23rd – 24th and two nearby at Kete 28th – 30th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: There were two very approachable birds on The Range from 14th-18th Sept; **DENBIGH**: One at Conwy RSPB on 16th-18th Sept.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* **PIBYDD TORCHOG**
(B) A fairly common passage migrant in small numbers, principally in autumn. Occasionally winters. Wales Amber-listed.

Approximate monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT			9		2		3	2+	11+	11+	2	
E. GLAMORGAN							1	1		1		
GOWER									1	1		
CARMARTHEN		1		3			1	5	10	4		

PEMBROKE	9								1			
CEREDIGION				1	1			5	6	1		
MEIRIONNYDD									4			
CAERNARFON									2	5		
ANGLESEY				1	3			2	5	2		1
DENBIGH (*)					1	1		2	3			

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

The highest counts were 9 at Castlemartin Corse **PEMBROKE** on 17th Jan and 7 at Penclacwydd **CARMARTHEN** in September.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

GIACH FACH

(B) A fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber-listed.

Birds were recorded until 21st April and from 28th Aug.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	3	1	2						
E. GLAMORGAN	3	2		1	1		2	7	3
GOWER	3	2						1	2
CARMARTHEN		1				1			3
PEMBROKE	2	1					2	1	1
CEREDIGION	1	2		1			1	1	3
BRECON	1	1						2	
CAERNARFON	2		1	3			2	1	1
ANGLESEY	3	3		1			1	1	1

RADNOR: Reported from 10 sites Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec.

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*

GIACH GYFFREDIN

(C) A widespread breeding bird, nesting in all counties but in small and declining numbers. Substantial numbers in winter. Wales Amber-listed.

Records of breeding or possible breeding were: **GWENT:** Two displaying males were seen. A male was drumming at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 20th Feb and a displaying bird was watched at Bal Bach on 27th April; **CARMARTHEN:** There were breeding season records from Mynydd Du and Ffios-las; **CEREDIGION:** The only breeding records came from the Dyfi est.: five pairs at Aberleri, three at Cors Fochno and three at RSPB Ynys-hir; **BRECON:** Best estimates of drumming/chipping birds on territory within the four 10 km squares SN82/83/92/93 were as follows: Traeth Mawr/Bach: 5, Waun Leuci: 3, Gelli (Cnewr): 2, Maesmerddyn: 1, Felincrai: 1, Werndyffog Moor: 1, Moel Feity: 1+, Rhos Dringarth: 1. From April, singles on potential breeding territory were at Llangorse, at three sites at Trembyd (Llanwrthwl), Gamrhiw (Llanwrthwl), Waen Rydd (SO0714, Beacons), Mynydd Llangynidr, and on MOD Epynt at E Range, Cefn Iolo and upper Cilieni SSSI; **CAERNARFON:** One was drumming at Llyn Tynmynydd on 2nd June, one drumming and calling at dusk at Llyn Bodgynydd on 9th

June and one singing at Cors Bodgynydd on 23rd June.

Monthly max. at sites with significant winter counts of 40 or more are tabulated as available.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	1	77	10	12			8	35	4
E. GLAMORGAN	Gilfach, Maesteg	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	40	-
	Hirwaun								60	50
GOWER	Burry (S)			15					15	55
PEMBROKE	Cleddau WeBS	138	17	5			4	17	23	13
	Newgale Marsh									85
CEREDIGION	Cors Caron	6	6	1			22	12	71	33
MEIRIONNYDD	Glaslyn/Dwryrd	4	0	4			41	2	6	30

Other large counts were: **E. GLAMORGAN**: 42 at Boys Village, West Aberthaw on 7th Dec; **GOWER**: 57 at Whiteford on 20th Dec In **BRECON**, numbers were low and most Snipe were thought to have succumbed or moved out of the county during the severe 2010 – 2011 winter.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

GIACH GYLFIN-HIR

(A) *A vagrant, on BBRC list.*

CARMARTHEN: A juv. at Kidwelly Quay on 29th Sept remained in the area to 23rd April 2012. This was the third county record; **CEREDIGION**: One was at Glandwr, Cors Fochno on 23rd April and seen again on 26th. This was the second county record.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

CYFFYLOG

(C) *A regular breeder in small numbers in all counties except Pembroke & Anglesey. It is widespread and common / abundant in winter. Wales Amber-listed.*

All records of roding or possibly breeding birds are given and all would be welcome, as the breeding status of this species in Wales remains poorly understood: **GWENT**: Breeding season records (mid-March to end-July) were again of one or two birds noted in three areas: once in Mynydd Du forest in mid-April, in Wentwood, where roding was heard in late May and early July and in the Trellech area; **BRECON**: One flushed in suitable breeding habitat in May at Maesydd, Deffynog, and another that rose in front of a car on a lane near Penmyarth (Glanusk) on 11th June was seen again in Myarth woodland adjacent on 16th; **CAERNARFON**: One was roding at Cors Bodgynydd on 2nd June.

Maximum passage and wintering counts were: **GWENT**: Four near Blaenavon in early December; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 6 at Coed-y-Bedw on 9th Jan; **PEMBROKE**: A total of 93 were ringed during the winter months by the Teifi Ringing Group; **CEREDIGION**: 7 at Cors Caron on 23rd Nov; **BRECON**: Recorded from 23 sites in January/February. In the second winter period, recorded from 17 localities. Good numbers were found in forestry at Carno and Ystradfellte in November with 12 birds flushed in six visits that month. Max. was 4 flushed from Llanddew woodlands during a shoot on 26th Dec.

MEIRIONNYDD: Six flushed from Hafod Uchel, Berwyn on 6th Dec; **CAERNARFON:** 8 on Bardsey on 1st Jan, with nine here on 8th Nov; **ANGLESEY:** 4 at Llyn Cefni on 3rd March.

2010: Correction: The record of 20 at Ynyslas **CEREDIGION** on 10th October in the 2010 Report should be deleted.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* *RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU*
(C) A common spring and autumn passage migrant; it is common to abundant and increasing in winter on the Dee. Wales Amber-listed.

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding 50 or more at least once) were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
NWR	87	120	150	230	17	13	86	111	30	120	230	100
Peterstone Wlooge			70	155	20		4	9	100	12	70	53
GOWER												
Burry South	190	190	145	120			105	4	70		485	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	479	162	377	625	489	382	392	551	482	482	179	55
Tywi	100	8	64						3			
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau WeBS	30	15	19							1	9	41
Pembroke Upper Millpond		148	197	184					29	65		75

There were 2 records of colour-ringed birds at Penclacwydd **CARMARTHEN**, one ringed as a chick in Zwolle, Netherlands and one ringed as a chick in northern Iceland.

Other large counts were: **E. GLAMORGAN:** 125 at Rhymney Est on 28th March and 75 at Cardiff Heliport bay on 2nd April. Inland records were: **E. GLAMORGAN:** An unusual report of 1 at Caerphilly Castle Moat on 17th March.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *L. lapponica* *RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH*
(C) A common passage migrant and winter visitor. It is rare away from the coasts but has been recorded in all inland counties. Wales Red-listed.

Small numbers occur in most coastal counties but the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 70 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Wlooge				26	30	4		1	11	70	1	17
GOWER												
Burry South	285	225	225	2		10		1	60	70		210

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Pendlacwydd	1	7	89				3	5	34	25		
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau WeBS		5	78						17	2	40	11
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi est.	26	4	6	5	150			6	5	5	5	7
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	70	15	0		4			4	19	117	23	52
ANGLESEY												
Alaw Estuary		194	175	82	82	4	51	44		32	17	67
Traeth Melynog	90		86						1			66

Large counts elsewhere were: **GWENT**: 150 were seen offshore at Sudbrook on 2nd May. Over 60 were flushed by a Peregrine at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 15th Aug and on 17th Aug, 90 were recorded; **CARMARTHEN**: c100 at Carmarthen Bay Caravan Park on 20th Dec; **PEMBROKE**: A total of 253 were logged passing Strumble Head (six in August and 247 in September).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

COEGYLFNIR

(C) Locally common in coastal counties on spring and autumn passage, scarce inland, small numbers occasionally over-winter. Wales Amber-listed.

Birds on passage were recorded from 4th March and until 19th Nov, with small numbers recorded at several sites during June. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 40 at least once) are tabulated.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Wentl			16	20	63	3	4	5	1			
E. GLAMORGAN												
Rumney Gt Wharf					50	1	3	1	1			
GOWER												
Burry (S)				100	25	45	70	25			1	
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas-Borth				100	46	1						
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	3	3	2	62	50	1	6	64	6	3	2	3
ANGLESEY												
Cemlyn				5	77				1	1	1	

Other large counts were: **CARMARTHEN**: c.180 in the Pwll/Burry Port area on 1st May and c.120 on 2nd; **PEMBROKE**: 75 in the fields behind Whitesands Bay on 5th May, 44 at Pencarnon on 3rd May and 40+ in Ramsey Sound on 28th April. A total of were 139 logged passing Ramsey April – May, max. 36 on 16th May. On return passage, a total of 67 were logged passing Strumble Head (July – September); **CEREDIGION**: 50 at

Llanon on 28th April; **ANGLESEY**: There were 48 between Hen Borth and Mynachdy on the 7th May and 53 at Llyn Cefni on 3rd May.

Wintering records were: **PEMBROKE**: At least two birds overwintered on Skokholm, seen on several dates from 1st Jan to 22nd March; **CAERNARFON**: Up to 3 birds overwintered on Bardsey both winter periods. Bardsey appears to be a nationally important wintering site for this species.

Inland records were: **E. GLAMORGAN**: 4 over Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Maesteg on 2nd May; **CARMARTHEN**: One at Abergwili on 6th May; **CEREDIGION**: Four at Cors Caron on 12th May; **BRECON**: Just one report, of two at Llangorse on the typical date of 6th May.

CURLEW *N. arquatus*

GYLFINIR

(C) A fairly common and widespread but declining breeding species, local in Pembroke and the coastal fringe of south Wales. It is an abundant winter visitor to coastal areas, where small numbers are present all year round. Very small numbers winter inland. Wales Red-listed.

Records of breeding or possible breeding were: **GWENT**: Breeding records were almost non-existent, which must surely be unrepresentative of the real situation, even given recent downward trends. Birds were displaying at Pantglas Farm, near Cwmbran, on 7th April, at Cleddon Bog on 25th April and at Blaenllwynon Farm, Hafodyrynys; **E. GLAMORGAN**: There was a single confirmed breeding report at Gelligaer Common a pair were seen with a three-quarters grown young bird on 2nd July. Another pair were present but no young were seen. Bubbling calls were heard on two occasions on 29th April in suitable habitat at Mynydd Portref; **CARMARTHEN**: Bred at Mynydd Ystyfflau-carn and there were breeding season records from Mynydd Figyn; **PEMBROKE**: The only breeding report was from Skomer, where five pairs established territories and where chicks were seen in North Valley and Calves Park in early June; **CEREDIGION**: A pair nesting near Ffair Rhos with a second pair present in the area and up to four birds recorded at Comins Pen-y-banc with some displaying noted. A pair were seen displaying at Cors Caron. A single bird was heard making territorial calls near Denmark Fm. and one was near Nant y Moch Res. where breeding probably occurred in previous years; **BRECON**: The only confirmed breeding was an adult with two well-grown chicks at Drovers Arms (Epynt) on 3rd July, and 3-4 adults alarming in a manner suggesting chicks were present at Cefn Llechid on 9th June. Sites where birds held territory (late-March to July) were Pipton, Waun Hirwaun (1 pair), Gwaun Nant Ddu/Dolygaer, Pennorth, Neuadd Farm/Cathedine marshy fields, Llanafan Fawr NW of Cribarth Quarry, Pantyllyn (2 prs), Pwll Du Pool, Roman Road (1-2 prs), Gelli (Cnewr), Llyn Dwr, Epynt (3 prs), Brechfa Pool area, Tretower, Cefn Llechid/ Felincamlais (2-3 prs), Bryn Cefnog above Coity Wood, Llanfrynach. Even with the addition of several sites where Curlew were found in season during Atlas fieldwork, this equates to a county population of approximately 25 pairs; **MONTGOMERY**: Three pairs bred at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, with one fledging one chick, one failing and the outcome of the third unknown; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Probable breeding or birds on territory at Sirior, Hafod Uchel, Hendwr track, Liberty Hall, Carrog, Fridd Hendwr and Bryn y Geifr, all in North Berwyn, at Maestron (Arenig Fawr), Yr Oerfa

(Llyn Celyn), Craig yr Hafod/Graig Ddu (Cwm Hesgyn), Blaen y Cwm and Ffridd Brynmelyn, Arenig; **CAERNARFON**: There was a pair with a chick at Llithfaen on 21st May, a pair were on territory on Gwaun Gynfi on 4th June and two birds were showing agitated behaviour at Cors y Llyn, Llyn Cwm Dulyn, on 23rd July.

Occurs in all Welsh estuaries and the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 500 at least once) are tabulated.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Undy foreshore	400		358	65	7	77		420	250	504	430	354
GOWER												
Burry (S)	940	445	550	85	1	20	460	1065	945	1410	645	185
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	375	409	346	73	61	93	600	1031	689	575	378	300
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau WeBS	764	652	197					1676	642	815	453	405
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	907	622	777	167	132	18	233	671	556	715	903	904
CAERNARFON												
Foryd		60+	500					350	350	250	50+	100+
Traeth Lafan	839	1954	663				1200	632	1139	1529	1519	1098

The traditional wintering flock in the Ffordd Fawr area, **BRECON**, which has been steadily declining for decades, was not recorded this year.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

(C) A summer visitor that breeds in most counties. Very small numbers over-winter. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding records for this species are incomplete. **GWENT**: A nest with four eggs was found at Llanfair Kilgeddin on 4th June while another, also with four eggs, was reported from near Llanbadoc. Eight birds including juveniles were at Llanellen on 7th June and six, including two juveniles, at The Bryn on 13th June. Additionally two, possibly three, territories were identified along a one-kilometre stretch of the river bank at Gobion, with birds on 24th June alarming as if young were nearby; **CARMARTHEN**: There were breeding season records from the Tywi and Cothi valleys and Llyn y Fan Fach; **CEREDIGION**: Three pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir. During the breeding season pairs were recorded at Llyn Brianne, Llyn Egnant, Llyn Fyrddon Fawr, the Ystwyth at Llanilar, Llyn Conach, Llyn Syfydrin and Cors Caron; **BRECON**: Displaying or territorial birds were seen at Elan Village, Ffordd Fawr, Glangrwyney and Crickhowell bridges, Glanusk Park, Talybont, Pentwyn and Cantref Reservoirs, Brecon STW and Island Fields, Brecon Promenade, Sennybridge, upper Lia (2 prs), Pont Ghirych (Cnewr), Crai and Usk Reservoirs. A pair made repeated visits to a reedy shoreline, probably to attend chicks, at the Far Lake in Craig-y-nos Country Park on 30th June; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Pairs were seen with recently fledged chicks at Bontddu on the Mawddach and on Llyn Edno, and a pair were seen nest building at the headwaters of

the Afon Mawddach, with probable breeding at Llyn Cwmorthin, Cwm yr Allt Llwyd, Llyn Tegid, Afon Cain, and at two sites on Afon Ganol near Tanygrisiau; **CAERNARFON**: There were 4 at Blaen Nant in the Ogwen valley on 28th April, with display noted;

Passage was recorded from 13th March and until 31st Oct. Passage max. **GWENT**: 8 at Llanellen in June, 9 at Sudbrook in July and 11 at The Moorings in August; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 7 at Kenfig Pool on 6th May, and on return passage 12 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 9th July; **GOWER**: 13 at Eglwys Nunydd Res on 15th April, and on return passage 10 at Crumlyn Burrows on 31st July and 10 at Brunel Docks, Briton Ferry on 15th July; **CARMARTHEN**: 9 at Pwll on 8th July, an exceptional count of 31 at Kidwelly Quay on 13th, 11 at Pwll on 21st and 8 at Glan yr Afon N.R., Kidwelly on 27th July; **PEMBROKE**: 30 on the Cleddau Estuary on 1st Aug; **CEREDIGION**: 13 at Tanybwlic on 22nd April and 10 at the Teifi est. on 2nd May. On return passage, 23 at Cors Fochno on 9th July, 10 at the Teifi est. on 23rd July, 12 at the Leri on 4th Aug, 19 at the Teifi est. on 6th Aug with 13 there on 7th and 14th and 10 at Llanrhystud on 26th Aug; **BRECON**: 15+ at Llangorse Lake on 8th July; **CAERNARFON**: Bardsey recorded up to six birds on ten dates in May. On return passage, up to 11 were present here on 20th July and 12 on 3rd Aug; **ANGLESEY**: 11 at Cemlyn on the 28th June and 8 at the Alaw Estuary on the 9th July.

Records of wintering or possibly wintering birds were **GWENT**: One at the River Usk in January and one here in Nov; **E. GLAMORGAN**: A single over-wintering bird was reported at Cardiff Bay - north on 15th Nov, then at the mouth of the R. Ely at Penarth Marina on 29th Nov and 10th & 18th Dec; **CARMARTHEN**: One at Kidwelly Quay on 23rd Jan; **CEREDIGION**: One on the Teifi est. on 15th and 20th Nov.

GREEN SANDPIPER *T. ochropus*

PIBYDD GWYRDD

(C) *A regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers to all counties.*

Approximate monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	4	3	5	3		2	12+	11+	4+		8	5
E. GLAMORGAN	8	2		3			7	11	4	7	4	3
GOWER	1		1	1			4	19	16	1	3	3
CARMARTHEN	2	4	1			5	8	5	1	1	1	
CEREDIGION					1	1	3	14	2	2		
BRECON	1							3		7	1	
CAERNARFON							1	1				
ANGLESEY							5	10	5	1	3	
DENBIGH (*)						1	3	16+	5			

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

In the other counties: **PEMBROKE**: No birds noted on spring passage, and the first birds on return passage were one on Ramsey 13th & 14th July and two at The Gann on 18th July. Thereafter, reported at eight localities in ones and twos until 25th Sept, when

one was at Pembroke River; **RADNOR:** Five on the Lower Wye on 10th Aug, reported from 10 sites from 1st Jan to 22nd April and 14th July to 31st Dec.

Wintering records were: **GWENT:** In the first winter period there were sightings at three sites along the River Usk. In the south, two were at The Moorings in late Feb and one was there or at Bulmore on three other dates in Jan and Feb. Further north, near Gobion, there were two on 17th Jan, three on 24th Jan and one on 9th Feb. The largest second winter numbers were noted at Gobion, with three on 12th Nov and four on 10th Dec. Elsewhere there were records of singles at Peterstone Wentlooge, Coedkernew, Bulmore, The Warrage and Llanfair Kilgeddin in Nov and Wentwood Reservoir in late Dec; **E. GLAMORGAN:** At least 8 were reported at R. Ely - Pendoylan on 19th & 22nd Jan, and singles were at Ogmor Est and the Watermill Flood on 11th and 17th Feb respectively. In the second winter period there were 3 around the Ploran Mawr/water treatment works area of Ogmor Est on 2nd and 9th Nov, increasing to 4 on 19th, 1 at Wentloog Level on 5th Dec and 3 there on 14th Dec; **GOWER:** One at Castell-du, Upper Loughor on 26th Jan and 19th March, and at Morfa Mawr here on 17th March. In the second winter period, 2 at Llanrhidian in the Burry Inlet on 10th Nov and 31st Dec, one above Pontarddulais on 13th Nov and one at Garnswllt on 12th Dec; **CARMARTHEN:** Singles at Kidwelly Quay on 3rd Jan, Commissioners' Bridge on 23rd and Llangennech on 15th Feb with 3 at Commissioners' Bridge on 19th; **PEMBROKE:** In the first winter period, there were reports of overwintering birds from Millin Pill, Minwear View, Sandy Haven, Sealyham and Waterston, with a max of three at Minwear View on 2nd Jan. The latest reports from these sites were of singles at Minwear View and Sealyham on 9th April; **BRECON:** The Camlais brook that flows from Traeth Mawr, Mynydd Illtyd now appears to regularly attract birds in winter, at least for short periods. One was there on 1st January, and again in the second winter period from 25th – 30th November.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* **PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG**
(B) *An uncommon but regular passage migrant to coastal counties chiefly in autumn. Small numbers over-winter. Rare inland. Wales Amber-listed.*

Winter records were: **GWENT:** In the first winter period singles were seen at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 1st Jan, 11th Feb and 20th Feb. At Peterstone Wentlooge one was recorded regularly between 25th Jan and 9th Feb. It is possible that only one bird was involved during this period. An overwintering bird remained at Peterstone Wentlooge from 18th Feb to 25th March. In the second winter period, one stayed at Goldcliff lagoons until 20th Nov and there was one here on 30th Dec; **GOWER:** One at Dalton's Point, Penclawdd on 23rd Jan and 8th Feb and one at Broad Pool on 2nd Feb; **CARMARTHEN:** 3 at Penclacwydd in January and two here in March, with one at the Gwendraeth in January. In the second winter period, singles at Penclacwydd and Gwendraeth in December; **PEMBROKE:** Singles recorded at Llangwm Pill on 16th Jan, 13th Feb and 13th March; **CEREDIGION:** One at RSPB Ynys-hir on 24th Jan and 20th and 22nd Feb, with one here again on 2nd Dec; **CAERNARFON:** 5 on Traeth Lafan in Jan and one in Feb, with two again here in Dec; **ANGLESEY:** In the Malltraeth area single birds were present in the first winter period until the 10th April, with two birds on 10th Feb. In the second winter period single birds were present here from 23rd Aug until the year end, with two on 11th Dec. One was on the Braint estuary on 11th Dec.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	2	2	4	1	2	2	2	1	3	5	2	1
E. GLAMORGAN							1	1		1		
GOWER	1	2										
CARMARTHEN	4	2	2	1			1	3	6	5	2	2
PEMBROKE	1	1	1									
CEREDIGION	1	1		3				1		1	1	1
CAERNARFON	5	1	1					1	1		1	2
ANGLESEY	1	2	1	1				1	1	1	1	3
DENBIGH (*)					1			1	3			

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

GREENSHANK *T. nebularia*

PIBYDD COESWERDD

(D) Locally common in coastal areas on passage, chiefly in autumn. Small numbers over-winter on Anglesey, Caernarfon, Glamorgan and Pembroke. It is uncommon inland.

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 15 at least once, or at least 10 in winter) are tabulated below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	5	8	7	12	2
CARMARTHEN												
Penclawdd	7	6	8	8	2		29	52	58	29	13	8
Gwendraeth	9	11					2	7	17	9	7	15
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau WeBS	20	16	19					22	11	19	19	17
ANGLESEY												
Malltraeth				1			1	15		1		

Other winter records were: **E. GLAMORGAN**: One at Kenfig Pool from 1st Jan through to 13th March. There was also 1 at Ogmore Est on 2nd and 22nd Jan; **GOWER**: Birds wintering in the Burry Inlet up to 30th March, max 4 at Landimore on 22nd Jan. In the second winter period, one at Penclawdd from 2nd to 29th Nov and at Whiteford on 19th Nov. Elsewhere, one at Kenfig est. on 30th Jan; **CARMARTHEN**: One on the upper Loughor at Llangennech 23rd Jan; **PEMBROKE**: Four on the Gann on 29th Jan and one at the Nevern estuary from Jan to March; **CEREDIGION**: One at RSPB Ynys-hir on 15th and 24th January and 24th Feb, and singles at both the Leri and Clettwr on 29th Dec; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One at Mochras on 2nd Jan, one at the Glaslyn/Dwryd estuary in Jan and one at Aberdysynni on 12th Feb; **CAERNARFON**: In January, there were 6 on Traeth Lafan, two each at the Conwy estuary and Foryd and one at Porthmadog Cob. In December, there were 4 on Traeth Lafan and 3 at Foryd; **ANGLESEY**: 3 at Cymyran in Jan and Feb and 3 in the Alaw estuary in Jan. In the second winter period, one at the Braint estuary in December.

Inland records were: **CARMARTHEN**: One at Ro-Fawr on 4th May

Approximate monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	2	1	2	2	3	2	5	11	10	8	12	2
E. GLAMORGAN	2	1	2	1			7	6	2			
GOWER	5	1	1				3	4+	5+	10	1	
CARMARTHEN	17	17	13	8	3		31	59	77	45	22	23
CEREDIGION	1	1			9		1	21	5	3	2	2
RADNOR							1	1	1			
BRECON							2	2		2		
MEIRIONNYDD	2	1	1					1	1	1	0	0
CAERNARFON	11		1	4			4	19	22	18	3	7
ANGLESEY	6	3	6	3	1	2	12	26	8	9	15	1

PEMBROKE: One at the Nevern estuary Jan – March. Reported in small numbers from Aug through to March. The highest counts at favoured sites were seven at Hook/Sprinkle Pill on 19th Nov, four at The Gann on 29th Jan, four at Nevern Est on 2nd Sept, and four at Pembroke Millpond on 30th Oct. The latest report in spring was of a single bird at The Gann on 1st May, while the first returning bird of the autumn was at the Nevern Est on 6th Aug.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*

MELYNGOES BACH

(A) *Very rare vagrant, on BBRC list.*

ANGLESEY: A long staying bird was on the Alaw estuary near Llanfachraeth, from 22nd Oct to 23rd Dec.

WOOD SANDPIPER *T. glareola*

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

(B) *A scarce passage migrant recorded in every county, principally in the autumn but with a scattering of spring records.*

GWENT: There were two records this year. Two were present on the lagoon in front of the Reserve Centre at NWR Uskmouth on 2nd May and one was at NWR Goldcliff lagoons from 28th July to 8th Aug; **E. GLAMORGAN**: There was one at Llanilid opencast on 6th Aug; **GOWER**: One at Port Talbot Sand Quarry and surrounds on 3rd May; **CARMARTHEN**: The only spring record was of one at Pentre-Davis on 3rd May. There were two autumn passage records of singles at Penclacwydd on 5th – 11th Aug. and 15th Aug. This species has been recorded annually in the county since 2006; **CEREDIGION**: One at Glandwr, Cors Fochno on 26th and 27th April, two on 1st May and one thereafter until 7th May; **ANGLESEY**: One was on a roadside pool at Mynydd Mechell on the 4th May and one at Cemlyn on the 6th May. One was at Valley from 25th Aug to 2nd Sept and one at the Cymyran Estuary on the 26th Aug; **DENBIGH**: There was one at RSPB Conwy from 1st to 5th May and one here on 15th May.

REDSHANK *T. totanus***PIBYDD COESGOCH**

(C) A scarce and declining breeding species, confined chiefly to salt-marshes but with a few pairs inland. Abundant wintering population. Wales Amber-listed.

Records of breeding or possible breeding were: **GWENT**: There were at least three confirmed broods this year. There were 3 well-grown chicks at NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 2nd June, a brood of 8 on 12th June, a brood of 2 on 3rd July and 3 young on 17th July. At Peterstone Wentlooge, 6 ads alarming strongly, probably 3 broods, at West Usk lighthouse, 2 ads alarming strongly, probably chicks, at R. Ebbw and 2 prs territorial at St Brides; **CEREDIGION**: 32 pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir (22 on lowland wet grassland and 10 on salt marsh), 4 on saltmarsh west of the Clettwr and six pairs at Cors Fochno.

Occurs in all Welsh estuaries and the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 300 at least once) were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Mathern	309	30	170	62			2		1		155	121
Peterstone Wentlooge	400	280	265	318	5	38	120	550	200	380	285	320
Ebbwmouth (HT roost)	320	30	10	72								
E. GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney Est	-	1000	512	-	-	-	200	1000	-	380	-	-
GOWER												
Burry (S)	795	245	370				4	280	190	295	90	20
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	104	332	524	336	1	8	132	285	236	255	87	71
Gwendraeth	161	400	20				350	265	535	300	353	143
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau WeBS	591	526	353					544	284	492	595	532
CAERNARFON												
Foryd Bay			300					23	75	120		
Traeth Lafan	610	1182	244					178	369	968	581	774

Other large counts were: **E. GLAMORGAN**: 1,000 at RGW on 9th Jan; **CARMARTHEN**: 447 at the Lliedi river mouth on 27th Sept; **CAERNARFON**: 350 in the Conwy estuary north of the bridges at Conwy on 29th March; **ANGLESEY**: 300 at Malltraeth on 2nd Jan; **DENBIGH**: 397 at RSPB Conwy on 25th Sept.

Inland records were **E. GLAMORGAN**: 1 at Llwyn-on Res in Merthyr UA on 21st March; **CEREDIGION**: One at Cors Caron, on 14th March; **BRECON**: One at Llangorse on 28th March. In the autumn, the first return here was a single on 17th June, followed by 3 on 28th. In July, 4 on 9th was a probable family party, followed by one on 15th and 18th. A brief visit was made by two on 23rd Aug, and finally a single on 8th – 9th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: 22 at Llyn Cefni on 27th Aug.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres***CWTIAD Y TRAETH**

(C) An abundant wader on the coast, a passage migrant in spring and autumn but most numerous and widespread in winter. A few non-breeding birds are present throughout the summer. It is rare inland. Wales Amber-listed.

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once) are tabulated below as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Wentl.					1			3	55	20		25
E. GLAMORGAN												
Sker Pt.	35	4	12	26	6	-	2	8	-	4	56	16
GOWER												
Burry (S)	15	10							135			
Mumbles Pier	15	68	39						137			
Blackpill	56	50	65		2			5	1	9	62	164
Swansea E Pier	61	53	59				3	37	78	85		
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau WeBS	22	34	26						60	55	59	45
CEREDIGION												
Llanrhystud-Aberaeron	30	28	41	8	1			80	48	73	56	16
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	58	60	32	24	11	6	7	57	89	88	67	52
Rhos Point	60+	60						10	50		34	30
Traeth Lafan	154	27	0					0	180	164	140	132

Other counts of 50 or more were: **GOWER**: 137 at Knab, Mumbles on 12th Sept; **CARMARTHEN**: 73 at Llanelli Beach on 2nd Oct; **CAERNARFON**: 50+ at Marine Drive, Great Orme on 8th Jan; **ANGLESEY**: 53 in Fryar's Bay on 9th March and 50 at Aberlenniog on 29th Dec.

Inland records were: **BRECON**: Llangasty provided a brief stop-over for single migrants in summer plumage on 10th May and 17th July.

GREY PHALAROPE *P. fulicarius***LLYDANDROED LLWYD**

(B) An uncommon and irregular passage migrant, predominantly to coastal areas and in the period September – October.

GWENT: A single bird was present on a small pool on the foreshore near the West Usk lighthouse, St Brides from 18th to 22nd Sept. During the last few days of its stay, it shared the small pool with a Pectoral Sandpiper; **E. GLAMORGAN**: A juv was at Porthcawl Pt on 7th Sept, 1 was off Southerndown on 13th Sept, and another juv was on the east pool shore at Kenfig Pool on 13th & 14th Sept; **GOWER**: An adult at Eglwys Nunydd Res on 8th-9th Sept, two immatures here on 13th and 3 on 17th Sept, with singles from 18th-20th Sept. Singles at Kenfig Dunes on 13th Sept and in the Burry Inlet between Wernffrwd and Penclawdd on 12th, 14th and 17th Sept; **CARMARTHEN**: In

Sept there was a juv. in the Lliedi river mouth/Llanelli Beach area on 11th, a different juv. at the Lliedi river mouth on 13th with 2 there on 14th. There were singles at Kidwelly Quay on 14th and on the estuary off Penclacwydd on 18th. Finally there was one on a small pond in the sand dunes at Pembrey Saltings on 22nd-23rd Nov; **PEMBROKE**: A bumper year for passage of this species off Strumble Head. In September: singles on 5th, 13th, 14th, 22nd & 26th, with two on 17th and six on 18th. In October, two on 6th, ten on 7th, two on 17th and a single on 18th. There were also records in December of singles on 5th, 17th & 20th Dec; **CEREDIGION**: One was recorded at Mwnt on 6th Oct and at Aberaeron on 21st Dec; **MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON**: At Porthmadog and the Glaslyn Marshes, 1-4 birds were present from 12th to 18th Sept; **CAERNARFON**: There was one at Criccieth on 17th-18th Sept. There were also singles at Porth lagoon on 6th Oct, at Rhos Point on 7th Oct and at Pwllheli on 9th Oct. One was at Bardsey on 13th Sept, one on 6th Oct with two on the 7th and one on the 18th; **ANGLESEY**: Singles were recorded in Beddmanarch Bay on 18th Jan, at Malltraeth on 13th -15th Sept, in flooded fields near Twr reservoir, Holyhead, from 16th-18th Sept, flying west past North Stack on 19th Oct and near Plas lagoon, Rhoscolyn, on 28th-29th Nov; **DENBIGH**: One at RSPB Conwy on 24th-26th Sept.

Phalarope sp. One was recorded at Cors Fochno **CEREDIGION** on 14th September.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

SGIWEN FRECH

(B) A fairly common and increasing passage migrant to coastal areas, particularly in autumn.

E. GLAMORGAN: One off Gileston on 16th Dec; **GOWER**: A sub-adult off East Breakwater, Swansea Docks on 7th Aug, 2 (an adult and an immature) off Port Eynon on 20th Aug and 2 north of Worm's Head on 22nd Oct; **PEMBROKE**: Singles off Strumble Head on 22nd May and 19th July; 149 recorded passing Strumble Head on 27 dates between 27th Aug and 17th Dec (max. 51 on 18th Oct). Of birds specifically aged, 80 were juveniles. The total of 151 birds recorded passing Strumble Head during the year was the second highest ever for the site. A juvenile off Ramsey on 7th Oct and 2 (a juvenile and an adult with "full spoons") off Ramsey on 19th Oct; **CEREDIGION**: An adult with full spoons flew south during a strong north-westerly gale on 4th Feb. In autumn, an adult flew south off Borth on 15th Aug, one was off New Quay on 28th Aug and one was there on 12th and 13th Sept; two juveniles were off Mwnt on 17th Sept, one three miles off Cwm Tydu on 1st Oct, 2 juveniles were at Mwnt on 6th Oct and 3 were there on 7th Oct; **CAERNARFON**: Three in Tremadog Bay off Morfa Bychan on 23rd May and one passed Rhos Point on 26th May with a juvenile there on 13th Sept. Singles passed the Little Orme on 29th Aug and 8th Sept, two on 4th Oct and singles on 7th and 19th Oct. A sub-adult bird passed Porth Ysgaden on 6th Oct. Bardsey had an excellent year, recording a total of 82 individuals between 29th Aug and 1st Dec, max. 12 on 19th Oct; **ANGLESEY**: One passed South Stack on 4th Sept, 2 passed Point Lynas on 18th Sept, an adult flew west past Holyhead Breakwater on 6th Oct, one at Cemlyn on 25th Sept, 2 there on 7th Oct and singles passed North Stack on 18th Oct and 4th Dec.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

(B) Passage bird off coastal counties; scarce in spring, more numerous in autumn, numbers recorded probably closely correlated with the intensity of effort in sea-watching. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: Three flew past Goldcliff Point on 22nd May, singles there on 29th May, 18th June and 7th Sept. A single flying over farmland near Bryn Meadows Golf Club, Maesycwmmwr, on 31st May; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 21 reports from 8 locations. An unusual winter report of one at Porthcawl on 1st Feb. In spring, singles off Nash Point on 6th May and off Sker on 20th May. Two off Porthcawl on 22nd May and one there on 25th June. In autumn, singles at Lavernock Point, Porthcawl, Ogmore, Rumney Great Wharf and Cardiff heliport on various dates between 3rd Aug and 13th Oct; two at Porthcawl on 11th Aug and 4 (max.) there on 6th Sept; **GOWER:** In spring, singles south of Worm's Head on 10th April, at Port Eynon Point on 8th May and off Margam Sands Outfall on 24th May. In autumn, regularly recorded along the coastline from Mumbles Head to Whitford Pt./Berges Island in the Bury Inlet between 6th Sept and 29th Dec on thirteen separate days, max. 5 at Tutt Head on 12th Sept and 5 off Mumbles Head on 17th Sept; **CARMARTHEN:** Singles at Cefn Sidan on 28th and 29th Sept; **PEMBROKE:** One on 3rd May off Strumble Head; 661 birds recorded there on 40 dates between 17th July & 19th Oct, (max. 59 on 13th Sept). Two were off Cwm yr Eglwys on 7th Sept; 60 birds counted from Ramsey in Sept and Oct, and recorded on five dates at Skomer, between 6th and 25th Sept (max. 7 on 6th); **CEREDIGION:** In April one at Aberystwyth on 11th, 3 at Ynyslas on 22nd and one at Borth on 29th; singles at Ynyslas/Borth on six dates between 19th July and 2nd Sept. At New Quay, 26 were recorded on ten dates between 20th Aug and 18th Oct (max. 4 on 7th and 12th Sept). At Mwnt, 62 were recorded on eight dates between 4th September and 7th October (max. 13 on 14th and 17th Sept); **CAERNARFON:** One off Bardsey on 3rd March and recorded there between 27th June and 18th Oct (max. 24 on 6th Oct). One off Dinas Dinlle on 16th April and 2 there on 15th May; two passed Rhos Point on 26th May; 3 off Criccieth on 23rd May and two there on 29th May. 24 passed the Little Orme between 29th Aug and 7th Oct, (max. 11 on 4th Oct); 4 passed Rhos Point on 6th Sept and a max. of 6 at Porth Ysgaden on 25th Oct; **ANGLESEY:** Recorded on six dates at several locations in spring, between 13th and 30th May (max. 3 off Traeth Llydan, Rhosneigr, on 13th). In late summer and autumn recorded on 156 bird-days between 18th July and 27th Nov, max. 24 past Point Lynas on 14th Sept.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	22 nd May	Goldcliff Point	7 th Sept	Maesycwmmwr
E. GLAMORGAN	1 st Feb	Porthcawl	13 th Oct	Porthcawl & Lavernock Pt.
GOWER	10 th April	South of Worm's Head	28 th Dec	Berges Island
CARMARTHEN			29 th Sept	Cefn Sidan
PEMBROKE	3 rd May	Strumble Head	19 th Oct	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	11 th April	Aberystwyth	18 th Oct	New Quay
CAERNARFON	3 rd March	Bardsey	25 th Oct	Porth Ysgaden
ANGLESEY	13 th May	Traeth Llydan, Rhosneigr	27 th Nov	Penrhos CP

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

(A) An uncommon visitor recorded chiefly along the western seaboard during westerly gales, spring records are very infrequent. Wales Amber-listed.

PEMBROKE: A good year for this species - 3rd highest yearly total for Strumble Head. Forty-nine birds were recorded on seventeen dates between 9th Aug and 19th Oct (max. 12 on 7th Oct). Except for single adults on 16th & 17th Sept, all other birds recorded were juveniles. Elsewhere, two singles reported from Skomer on the 6th and 7th Sept; **CEREDIGION:** A juvenile at New Quay and also one at Mwnt on 6th Oct, and another one there on 7th Oct; **CAERNARFON:** One passed Rhos Point on 11th Sept, and single adults flew west past the Little Orme on 12th and 20th Sept with a juvenile there on 4th Oct. A total of 15 individuals (13 juveniles and 2 adults) were recorded from Bardsey on nine dates between 5th Sept and 18th Oct, max. 4 on 13th Sept; **ANGLESEY:** Single juveniles passed Point Lynas on 9th Aug, 14th Sept and 6th Oct, and 3 were recorded there on 7th Oct. Elsewhere, one flew past North Stack on 6th Oct and single juveniles passed Cemlyn on 7th and 18th Oct.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*

SGIWEN FAWR

(B) Regularly recorded on autumn passage along the west coast where small numbers are also seen in winter and spring. Numbers vary annually, the highest counts dependent on the strength and frequency of onshore gales.

GWENT: One flew up channel past Goldcliff Point on 12th Sept; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 19 reports from 5 locations. In spring, singles off Porthcawl on 23rd May and 18th and 26th June. In late summer and autumn, singles at Porthcawl on 27th July, 3rd Aug, 6th and 12th Sept, two there on 11th and one on 31st October. Elsewhere, singles at Kenfig on 3rd and 26th Sept, Lavernock Pt. on 13th Sept and at Cwm Nash on 26th Sept; **GOWER:** One south of Mumbles Head on 5th Feb. Recorded on seven dates between 8th July and 22nd Oct from several sites including Port Eynon Pt. on 8th July, 13th Aug and 11th Sept, Swansea West Pier 1st 2nd and 4th Oct, and north of Worm's Head, Rhossili (2) on 22nd Oct. Recorded on four dates in Dec between 3rd and 9th at Pwll Du Head, Tutt Head, Oxwich Bay and south of Mumbles Head; **PEMBROKE:** Singles off Strumble Head on 5th Feb and 26th May. 481 passed Strumble Head on 44 dates between 17th July and 7th Dec, (max. 58 on 13th Sept). Elsewhere, 51 recorded on Ramsey in Sept and Oct (max. 26 on 7th Oct), and on six dates between 6th and 26th Sept on Skomer (max. 7 on 6th); singles reported between Grassholm and The Smalls on 17th Aug and at Wooltack Point on 23rd Sept; **CEREDIGION:** One off Ynyslas on 30th May, probably the same bird passed Llanrhystud on 31st May and Aberarth on 2nd June. A total of 64 were recorded between 19th July and 25th Nov from four locations, max. 20 at Mwnt on 14th Sept; **CAERNARFON:** One off Criccieth on 23rd and 29th May, and two passed Rhos Point on 26th May. Recorded from Bardsey on 44 dates between 7th Aug and 28th Nov (max. 18 on 6th Oct). Elsewhere recorded from five mainland locations, including 20 past the Little Orme between 29th Aug and 11th Oct (max. 6 on 7th Oct); **ANGLESEY:** Single birds flew past Carmel Head on 14th May and passed South Stack on 28th May. 107 were recorded on twenty dates from six locations between 18th July and 18th Dec (max. 23 past Point Lynas on 7th Oct).

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

GWYLAN SABINE

(A) An uncommon visitor to the coast in autumn, numbers vary according to the frequency of westerly gales.

GWENT: A juvenile flew up-channel past Goldcliff Point on 12th Sept; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Single juveniles were seen off Porthcawl front on 6th, 12th and 21st Sept, 17th Oct and 8th Dec; **GOWER:** A juvenile was recorded at Bracelet Bay on 12th April; **PEMBROKE:** At Strumble Head, 86 (25 adults and 61 juveniles) were recorded on 19 dates between 7th Sept & 20th Dec (max. 18 on 18th Sept - the highest daily total on record). Elsewhere, an adult was recorded from the Fishguard – Rosslare Ferry (c.30 km west of Strumble Head) on 9th Sept, and single juveniles at Newgale on 27th Sept, off Skomer on 3rd Oct and in Ramsey Sound on 23rd Nov. From Ramsey Island itself, a juvenile on 18th Sept, two on 7th Oct then three adults in winter plumage and another juvenile on 19th Oct; **CEREDIGION:** There was a juvenile at New Quay on 7th Sept, two juveniles off Mwnt on 14th Sept, a juvenile off New Quay on 18th Sept with one at Llanon on the same date and a juvenile at Mwnt on 6th Oct; **MEIRIONNYDD:** A juvenile on Llandanwg beach on 15th Sept at 10.00am and a juvenile on Harlech Beach in the evening on the same date; **CAERNARFON:** A juvenile at Porthmadog Cob on 12th Sept with it or another bird at Black Rock Sands on the same day. From 18th - 29th Sept one was present at Criccieth between the castle and the end of the promenade, then on the 2nd Oct, three juveniles were present. All the records between 12th - 29th Sept could relate to one mobile bird or possibly 3 individuals may have been present in the bay all along until they joined up on the 2nd Oct. Bardsey had an excellent year, with 17 records totalling 28 individual birds (involving at least five adults and 23 juveniles) between 6th Sept and 4th Dec the latter being the latest ever for the island. Max. counts were 4 (all juveniles) on 7th and 10th Oct. A total of 17 flew past the Little Orme between 8th Sept and 7th Oct, max. 4 on 4th Oct. Elsewhere, there was one in Foryd Bay on 1st Oct and one passed Porth Ysgaden on 13th Sept; **ANGLESEY:** A 1st summer bird flew past Cemlyn on the 25th May. In autumn, there were records of up to 11 individuals from Point Lynas to South Stack between 14th Sept and 1st Nov. Two birds (an adult and a juvenile) passed Point Lynas on 18th Sept; an adult and a juvenile were recorded at Cemlyn on 1st Nov.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

GWYLAN GOESDDU

(C) A breeding species in coastal areas from Glamorgan to Caernarfon, except Meirionnydd. Large numbers occur offshore on passage. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding information, including records from the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP):

Records from 13 out of 14 colonies, where counts of nest sites were reported, suggested a population increase at all breeding colonies in North Wales but a slight decrease overall at South Wales colonies. Productivity was poor at sub-colonies where this was measured (e.g. Castlemartin, Skomer and Bardsey).

Breeding Colony Summary:

County	AON	Summary of population changes since 2010
GOWER		
Mumbles Pier RNLI Stn.	167	Slight increase (153 AON in 2010)
Worm's Head	18	Slight decrease (20 AON in 2010)

PEMBROKE		
St Margaret's Island	252	Slight decrease (265 AON in 2010)
Castlemartin peninsula	28	Slight increase (27 AON in 2010) no young fledged in 2011
Skomer	1,837	Slight decrease (1,922 AON in 2010) productivity measured at 3 sub-colonies in 2011 ranged from 0.33 to 0.68 per nest (702 nests sampled)
Grassholm	13	Slight decrease since last assessed in 2007 (19 AON)
Ramsey	204	Slight increase (191 AON in 2010)
CEREDIGION		
New Quay Head	N/C	Not counted but considered to be another very successful season; 2 or 3 chicks observed in all visible nests seen from the mainland 15 th June
CAERNARFON		
Carreg-y-Llam	573	Large increase (354 AON in 2010)
Bardsey	188	Large increase (128 AON in 2010) but still 31.5% below the 2002-2011 mean. A late visit to a small portion of the colony indicated 0.52 chicks per pair (31 pairs sampled) - the lowest productivity estimate on record
Great Orme	726	Large increase (516 AON in 2010)
Little Orme	488	Large increase (296 AON in 2010)
ANGLESEY		
Puffin Island	446	Slight increase (413 AON in 2010)
South Stack/South Stack Island	22	Large increase (10 AON in 2010) 57 birds recorded in 2011 breeding season

A summary of other records: **GWENT**: Small numbers recorded occasionally early in the year (max. 16 flying down channel off Goldcliff Point on 28th May). One inland record, at Cwmbran boating lake on 18th Dec; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 28 reports from 6 locations. Early in the year up to four noted from several sites between 1st January and 29th May; later in the year small numbers were noted at various coastal sites included 13 at Porthcawl on 11th Aug; last recorded (6) off Porthcawl on 28th Dec; **GOWER**: Exceptional numbers in South Gower late in the year, including 2,600 north of Worm's Head on 22nd Oct; 185 heading west off Port Eynon Point on 26th Nov and 875 in Oxwich Bay on 24th Dec; **CARMARTHEN**: The only record was of a juvenile at Pembrey Harbour on 31st July; **CEREDIGION**: Max. counts outside the breeding season were of 120 flying south at Aberaeron on 3rd Dec and 80 at Aberystwyth on 13th Dec passing south in three hours during a westerly gale; **BRECON**: A 2nd-winter bird was blown into Llangorse on a stormy 4th Feb; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Up to five recorded off Tonfanau on three dates between 31st July, and 4th Sept; **CAERNARFON**: Largest counts included 200+ flying west past Rhos Point on 26th May, 108 past the Little Orme on 4th Oct and from Bardsey max. monthly counts of 2,000 in Sept and 2,846 in Oct; **ANGLESEY**: Outside the breeding season, max. counts were 1,700 passing Point Lynas on 14th Sept and 1,200 there on 19th Oct.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*
(A) *Rare vagrant.*

GWYLAN BONAPARTE

All records were: **E. GLAMORGAN:** An adult winter bird was in Cardiff Bay from 13th to 28th March; **MEIRIONNYDD** and **CAERNARFON:** A first winter bird with Black-headed Gulls on the Glaslyn at Porthmadog from 23rd to 31st May; **ANGLESEY:** An adult, presumed to be the same bird from 2010 and 2011, was frequenting the area between the mouth of the Dulas Estuary and Traeth Llugwy between 12th Feb and 27th March.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

GWYLAN BENDDU

(C) A locally common breeding resident, scarce only in south and south-east Wales during the summer months. A common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red-listed.

Breeding information: **CARMARTHEN:** A decline in the breeding population at Penclacwydd from 210 pairs in 2010 to c. 90 pairs that fledged c. 270 young; **CEREDIGION:** Very few breeding pairs noted with c. 40-50 pairs nesting at Tŷ Gwyn pools and nine adults and six chicks at Llyn Fyrddon Fach on 29th June; **BRECON:** 91 birds counted at Brechfa Pool in April remained there all month, with pair-bonding and copulation seen on 29th. It seems likely that nests were made and eggs were laid, yet by 20th May the site was completely deserted and remained so during June. Predation suspected, due to a very dry spring and low water levels; **MEIRIONNYDD:** A small breeding colony reported on a small llyn on the Migneint and 20 nests on a nearby llyn on 19th June; **ANGLESEY:** 390 pairs fledged 250 young at Cemlyn. There were 18 AON at Valley Wetlands (SMP records) and one bird was sat on a nest at Llyn Maeiog in the summer.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 1,000+ at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Nedern Wetlands			74									1,060
Peterstone Wentl.	150	300	200	8	22	200	500	500	400	400	2,000	4,000
GOWER												
Blackpill	2,270	3,330	492	55	58	82	2,020	2,460	1,638	1,490	1,244	2,740
Burry (south)	510	280	705	710	90	390	5,195	4,530	1,835	1,435	785	760
Upper Loughor	749	821	209	223	650	439	1,181	1,223	988	231	680	587
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	341	366		306	300		1,104	380	101	211	227	247
PEMBROKE												
Llys-y-fran Res.	600								1	50	2,000	1,000

Other large counts (500 or more) were: **GWENT:** 660 on the Caerleon flooded fields on 28th Dec and 891 at The Moorings, the same date. **E. GLAMORGAN:** Max counts at Ogmere Estuary were 780 in Jan and 820 in Nov; **GOWER:** 2,000 at Llanrhidian on

28th July, 1,590 at Weobley on 31st Aug; **CARMARTHEN**: max in Oct at Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point 616 and on the Taf 640; **PEMBROKE**: Max count at Dale 1,000+ on 30th Jan, 500 at Cresselly 6th Feb, and 775 at Sprinkle Pill / Hook 18th Sept; **CEREDIGION**: 500 at Pant Pool on 20th Nov; **BRECON**: Max. 725 at Llangorse Lake in Jan, 720 at Talybont Reservoir in Oct; 800 near Talgarth on 11th March.; **MEIRIONNYDD**: 696 at Glaslyn/Dwyrdd in Oct; **CAERNARFON**: 1,050 at Morfa Aber on 9th Sept and monthly max. 889 at Bardsey in Nov; **ANGLESEY**: 1,400 were at Cemlyn on 26th Feb.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

GWYLAN FECHAN

(B) A fairly common, sometimes common passage migrant and winter visitor to the coast, scarce inland. Wales Amber-listed.

Summary of records by month for each county:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT									2 (of 1 juv)			
E. GLAMORGAN	4			1				1	1			10 max 4 birds
GOWER			1	1					2		1	
CARMARTHEN			2	1								
PEMBROKE			1							1	3	3
Strumble Head									49 on 20 dates between Aug and Dec			
CEREDIGION		2		1					4			4
MEIRIONNYDD												1
CAERNARFON	1	2	2									
Bardsey									13+ max 4	7+	4	
ANGLESEY			2	1	1	3	2		2	2	6	7

Summer records were received from: **ANGLESEY** at Cemlyn (29th May to 19th July) and Rhosneigr (25th June). The highest count was at **PEMBROKE**: Strumble Head (13 on 17th Dec).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

(B) An increasingly common visitor, chiefly to coastal counties at all times of the year. Rare inland. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding information: **ANGLESEY**: Breeding occurred at Cemlyn, but no young were fledged successfully. Eleven different individuals were seen during the breeding season, including records of juvenile birds. Elsewhere on Anglesey, 1-7 birds (various age classes) were recorded in all months of the year from at least 17 other sites.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 10+ at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	5	4		1			1		1	3	12	1
Cardiff foreshore						14						
Rumney Great Wharf					2	20	2		1			
GOWER												
Blackpill/Swansea Bay	11	17	2		5	69	170	222	109	62	14	12
Mumbles/Bracelet Bay	50	17				2	24		29	30		14
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	1		2	3	3	27	27	2				
Pembrey/Burryport Harbours	1					2	33	68	3	2		
PEMBROKE												
Fishguard Harbour	3	1				10	7	44	14			
Strumble Head						1	2	15	8	9	2	
Gann	16	15	6					1	6	2		11
Angle Bay		1						15	12			
CEREDIGION												
New Quay								15				
Aberaeron to Aberystwyth	At Aberarth in Sept (180 on 13 th), at Aberaeron recorded July to Sept (160 on 13 th Sept); At Llanon recorded June to Sept (peak 252 on 8 th Sept); At Llanantffraed/Llanrhystud - 250 on 13 th Aug and an exceptional 304 on 22 nd Aug; At Aberystwyth recorded Aug to Oct (67 on 5 th Aug, 50 on 5 th Oct).											
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	1		1		1		2	1	5	16	21	
Llyn - Hell's Mouth							11					

Inland records were: **CARMARTHEN:** An adult at Dryslwyn on 8th Feb; **BRECON:** A summer-plumage adult at Llangorse on 31st March.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

(C) A numerous and widespread winter visitor with small numbers recorded on passage. Wales Red-listed.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 500+ at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GOWER												
Blackpill	277	468	398	54	24	8	20	100	254	317	340	1,000
Burry Inlet/Loughor	60	2	8				32	780	503			205
Burry (south)	-	2	-	-	-	1	440	1,140	745	135	150	60
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	824	2,105	1,203							1,380	69	600

Other large counts were: **GWENT**: 250 at St Brides Netherwent, north of Magor, on 22nd Jan; **GOWER**: 530 on Rhossili Bay beach on 22nd Jan, 780 at Llanrhydian on 29th Aug, 503 there on 3rd Sept, 250 at Whitford on 21st Sept, 750 at Oxwich on 28th Dec and 520 at Nicholson Pill on 30th Dec; **PEMBROKE**: Largest count received was of 250 at Dale on 6th Feb; **CEREDGION**: 650 at the Borth roost on 22nd Feb, 370 at the Teifi Estuary on 6th Feb; **CAERNARFON**: Max. 290 at Morfa Aber on 9th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: Max. 180 at Traeth Llugwy on 13th Dec.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

(A) An uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas, chiefly in the period from mid-February to the end of May. On WRP list.

There are now fewer records than formerly, and consequently this species has been added to the WRP list. All records were: **PEMBROKE**: An adult at Llys y fran Res 23rd Jan & 17th Feb, and assumed to be the same bird returning there 26th Nov; a different (smaller) adult at Newgale Marsh 26th Dec and a 2nd year bird on the Teifi estuary (mainly on the Ceredigion side but sometimes recorded on the Pembrokeshire side) from 21st Sept to 30th Oct; **CEREDGION**: the 2nd year bird referred to on the Pembrokeshire side of the Teifi Estuary was seen on the Ceredigion side from 22nd Sept to the end of the year. This was the first record for Ceredigion since 2002.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

(C) Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding information: **GWENT**: It is believed that all of the colonies of recent years were still active. At Newport Docks, 31 adults were counted on 23rd June in a mixed colony with Herring Gulls; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding was widely reported in Cardiff on the roofs: 2,696 occupied territories were reported (SMP records). There were 3,700 pairs on Flat Holm; **GOWER**: Bred at a minimum of seven sites, max. 14 pairs at Port Talbot Docks; **PEMBROKE**: A total of 10,238 AON on Skomer (11 fewer than in 2010), 2,412 AON on Skokholm (2,486 AON in 2010); an estimated 509 AON on Caldey (680 AON in 2010) and 38 AON on Castle Martin peninsula (8 less than in 2010); **CEREDGION**: 803 AON on Cardigan Island (SMP records); **CAERNARFON**: 209 incubating adults on Bardsey was a 16.7% decrease compared with 2010 and 46% lower than the 2002-2011 mean. However, it was still the second highest total in the last five years. Productivity was calculated from 45 monitored nests as 0.13

fledglings per pair. Following the record total of 15 pairs on Ynysydd Gwylan in 2010, only two pairs were present, one on each of the islands, and no young were found during the landing visits. There were 2 AON at Conwy; **ANGLESEY**: There were 359 nests on the Skerries and 104 nests at South Stack including the Island and a single AON was reported at Valley Wetlands.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 200+ at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cosmeston	16	74	107		30	150	100	200	60	104	68	39
Llanishen Res	129	105	91	140	56	76		600	153	68		51
GOWER												
Blackpill	9	13	38	54	164	170	198	237	48	56	17	12
U. Loughor	12	55	28	82	95	82	224	351	162	66	11	8
PEMBROKE												
Llys-y-fran Res	2,200		500				1,000		300	4,000	4,500	2,000
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi Estuary	200	96	250						300	218	220	50
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	35	35	100					40	135	25	30	660
Talybont Res	0	0	0					32	2,200	2,800	1,300	900
Pontsticill Res	8	34	85					n/c	800	170	40	25
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	4	4	21	250	95	83	55	70	68	27	9	7

Other large counts (150 or more) were: **E. GLAMORGAN**: 150 at Lisvane Reservoir in Oct; **GOWER**: 160 at Port Talbot Harbour/Docks in July; **CARMARTHEN**: c.300 at Blaenwaun on 15th May; **PEMBROKE**: 500 at Goulthrop Roads on 5th Feb; 435 at the Gann in Nov; 306 at Sandy Haven Pill in Nov; 440 at Hook to Sprinkle Pill in Sept; 270 at Little Milford to Haverfordwest in Oct; **CEREDIGION**: 1,000 at Pant Pool on 20th Nov; **CAERNARFON**: 230 at Foryd on 2nd Sept.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

(C) Formerly an abundant resident in coastal areas, now much reduced on the islands and a scarce breeding bird on the mainland coast. Frequent in many inland areas, breeding on several freshwater sites. Wales Red-listed.

Breeding information: **GWENT**: It is believed that all of the colonies of recent years were still active. At Newport Docks, on 23rd June, 26 adults were present in a mixed colony with Lesser Black-backed Gulls; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Six hundred and forty occupied territories were reported on roofs in Cardiff City Centre (SMP records). A single pair was reported on the cliffs at Nash Point; **GOWER**: Breeding reported at several sites and probable breeding at one other site (max. confirmed) 9 nests at

Mewslade cliffs in May; **CARMARTHEN:** Bred at Wharley Point; **PEMBROKE:** An estimated 2,160 AON on Caldey Island (2,250 in 2010); 420 AON on Skomer (431 AON in 2010), 233 AON on Castlemartin peninsula (54 less than in 2010), 257 AON on Skokholm (312 AON in 2010), 210 AON on St Margaret's Island; **CEREDIGION:** No breeding counts were carried out this year; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Breeding noted at Llwyngwrl, six nests at Fairbourne on 9th June, Friog (nest with young) and present in suitable habitat at Dolgellau; **CAERNARFON:** On Bardsey, a slow recovery in the breeding population continued, with 398 pairs, a 2.3% increase compared with 2010. However, the breeding population remains 13.4% down on the 2002-2011 average and 16.7% down on the long-term average. A study plot yielded a productivity estimate of 0.62 fledglings per pair, 35.4% below the 2002-2011 mean. On Ynysodd Gwylan, a total of 30 nests were found on Ynys Gwylan Fawr, 35 fewer (53.8%) than last year, but 105 pairs on Ynys Gwylan Bach, 55 more (110%) than in 2010. The total number of nests found on Ynysodd Gwylan was thus 17.4% up on last year, but 28.8% below the 2003-2011 mean. Productivity across both islands was 0.45 fledglings per pair, 42.3% down on last year and 45.8% below the 2003-2011 mean; Elsewhere there were 14 AON at Carreg-y-Llam and 3 pairs with 2 young each at Porth Pistyll on 5th June and a single pair nested at Conwy; **ANGLESEY:** A total of 959 nests on the Skerries and 390 nests at South Stack including the Island.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 1,000 at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GOWER												
Whitford	90	191	35	1,679	800	953	455	520	1,110	455	58	50
Burry (south)	95	190	415	1,680	1,120	1,045	715	1,980	2,400	900	255	280
CARMARTHEN												
C. Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	778	1,233	29							840	106	270
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi Estuary	800	250	500						560	560	650	2,000
CEREDIGION												
New Quay		1,000								1,000		
BRECON												
Pontsticill Res	3,420	1,279	1,143						1,400	n/c	1,800	3,400

Other large counts (500 or more) were: **E. GLAMORGAN:** 560 in the Ogmore Estuary in Jan, 800 at Kenfig Sands on 30th July and 600 at Sker mussel beds on 28th Sept; **GOWER:** 900 at Aberavon Sands on 3rd Jan, 500 at Rhossili Bay on 22nd Jan, 700 at Great Pill, Llanrhidian on 4th April, 596 at Weobley on 22nd May, 974 at Blackpill in Aug and 985 there in Sept, 1,140 at Weobley on 14th Sept and 600 at Oxwich Bay on 28th Dec; **PEMBROKE:** 600 at Llys-y-fran Reservoir 2nd Jan, 500 there on 24th July and also in Oct; **CAERNARFON:** 1,180 at Llandudno North Shore on 3rd Jan, 600+ at the Little Orme on 24th Jan, 600+ at Penrhyn Bay on 17th March and 500+ at Aber Ogwen on 22nd Sept.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

GWYLAN GOESFELEN

(A) An uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, formerly rare.

All records were: **E. GLAMORGAN:** 16 reports from 7 locations. All birds reported were adults except where indicated otherwise. Singles at Cosmeston CP on 16th Jan, and 6th, 9th and 12th March. Elsewhere, singles at Cardiff Bay on 13th Feb and 11th and 25th March, at Pentwyn on 19th Feb, and at Rhymney Estuary on 29th March. A 2nd summer bird was at Kenfig river-mouth on 31st Jul and a 1st winter bird at Ogmore Estuary on 24th Aug. There were singles at Cardiff Bay on 23rd Oct, Ogmore Estuary on 27th Oct, Cardiff Bay on 24th and 27th Dec, and a 1st winter bird at Roath Park Lake on 29th Dec; **GOWER:** An adult at Wernffrwd on 14th and 15th Aug, at Swansea Docks, West Pier on 2nd Oct, at Oxwich on 28th Dec and a 2nd winter plumaged bird there on 29th Dec; **CARMARTHEN:** There were 4 records: adults at Sandy W.P. on 23rd March, Penclacwydd on 2nd April and Burry Port Harbour on 22nd – 24th with a 2nd winter at Penclacwydd on 1st Dec; **PEMBROKE:** An adult and two 1st winter birds at Llys y fran Reservoir on 23rd Jan, an adult there on 14th Feb, two adults there on 26th Nov and a single adult on 28th Dec; **CEREDGION:** A 2nd summer bird at Llanon on 27th June; **BRECON:** Llangorse Lake held a bird between 4th Feb and 2nd March, with a suspected visit to Dderw Pool on 10th Feb, and then spending time at Brechfa Pool from 6th – 12th March. The only other spring sightings were singles at Llangorse on 4th and 25th April, and one over Mynydd Llangynidr on 16th June. In autumn, the same bird was suspected of visiting both Brechfa Pool and Llangorse on 6th Aug, from where regular sightings were made of one from 18th Aug – 9th Sept. A 2nd winter bird was photographed with LBB Gulls at Brechfa Pool on 23rd Oct. Finally, Llangorse held 2 adults on 10th Oct, a single on 4th and 18th Nov, and 2 on 27th Dec; **CAERNARFON:** A 2nd winter bird at Black Rock Sands on 28th Feb; **DENBIGH:** An adult at RSPB Conwy on 1st and 6th July.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoideus*

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

(A) An uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, formerly rare.

All records were: **E. GLAMORGAN:** An adult winter bird was at Portobello Island, Ogmore from 12th to 15th Dec; **GOWER:** A 2nd winter plumaged bird at Oxwich on 27th – 29th and 31st Dec and a 1st winter bird near Nicholaston Pill on 28th Dec; **PEMBROKE:** A 1st winter bird at Goultrop Roads 4th & 29th Jan and an adult in Ramsey Sound on 10th Dec.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

(A) An uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas of Wales, chiefly in winter but occasionally in summer.

All records were: **CARMARTHEN:** The only record was of a 1st winter bird at Sandy W.P. on 22nd March; **PEMBROKE:** A 1st winter bird at Llys-y-fran Res. on 28th Jan, then at Sclledau the following day; **CAERNARFON:** Two (age class not specified) at Foryd on 2nd Sept, and a first-winter bird seen over Bardsey on 11th Nov; **ANGLESEY:** A 3rd winter bird was seen at Penhesgyn, near the tip on the outskirts of Menai Bridge from 5th – 8th March.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF
(C) Common and widespread in coastal areas in winter, widely distributed breeding bird along rocky coastlines in single pairs or small colonies. Wales Red-listed.

Breeding information: **GWENT**: A visit to Denny Island revealed that 70 adults and sub-adults were present and 24 young were counted; 17 of the latter were ringed (and given coloured Darvic rings, to enable tracking of Denny Island birds); **E. GLAMORGAN**: Three occupied territories were reported (SMP records) on Cardiff City Centre roofs and a pair nested on Flat Holm; **PEMBROKE**: A total of 84 AON were recorded on Skokholm (80 AON there in 2010), 80 AON were recorded on Skomer (a 32% decline in the number of nests reported in 2010), 9 AON were found on Caldey (same as in 2010) and 6 AON on the Castlemartin peninsula. They also nested on St Margaret's Island but no counts were undertaken; **CEREDIGION**: 10 individuals were reported in suitable nesting habitat on Cardigan Island on 20th May (SMP records); **MEIRIONNYDD**: A pair nested on Llyn Conglog-mawr but no young were seen; **CAERNARFON**: Four pairs nested on Bardsey, two more than last year, and four fledglings were recorded. Thirty-two nests were counted on Ynys Gwylan Fawr, one more than last year. Twelve pairs nested on Ynys Gwylan Bach, three times the number recorded in 2010. The combined number of pairs for the two islands was thus 25.7% up on last year and 11.2% up on the 2003-2011 mean. Productivity on Ynys Gwylan Fawr was only 0.63 whereas on Ynys Gwylan Bach productivity was a more respectable 1.75. The combined productivity value of 0.93 chicks per pair is 20.5% down on 2010 and the worst recorded for over a decade; **ANGLESEY**: Thirty-three nests were recorded on the Skerries and 3 pairs on South Stack Island, elsewhere there were 3 AON reported at Valley Wetlands (Llyn Dinam and Llyn Penrhyn), and a single pair bred at Llyn Maelog. A pair and a juvenile bird were recorded at Cemlyn in late July.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 30+ at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GOWER												
Burry (south)	10	10	5	25	5	25	30	45	55	60	25	20
Whitford	9	12	3	26	1	9	16	36	35	36	8	
Blackpill	7	9	12	14	15	28	38	35	23	34	26	43
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	8	24	25							53	9	16
Taf	2								32	1		
PEMBROKE												
Frainslake/Fresh West	18	4							84	25	25	
CAERNARFON												
Little Orme	20+								30+			

Other counts of 20 or more were: **GOWER**: 26 at Weobley in April, 26 at Wernffrwd on 29th Oct, 20 at Oxwich Bay on 28th Dec; **PEMBROKE**: 41 at St David's Pools in Feb; **PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION**: 22 at Teifi Estuary on 13th Feb and 16th Oct, and 20 there in Dec; **CAERNARFON**: Monthly max. counts at Bardsey, 23 in April, 21 in Oct and 22 in Nov.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons***MORWENNOL FECHAN**

(B) A summer resident which breeds only at one colony in Flint, otherwise a spring and autumn passage migrant to other coastal areas, rare inland. Wales Red-listed.

Breeding information: **FLINT**: At Gronant Beach, the only Welsh colony, 126 AON were counted (SMP records), but they had a poor season, with possibly as few as 26 young fledged.

All other records were: **E. GLAMORGAN**: Single birds offshore at the mussel beds at Kenfig Sands on 28th Aug and on 25th Sept; **GOWER**: 10 at Blackpill on 19th April, one off Port Eynon Point on 8th July, 2 at Blackpill on 1st and 16th Aug and 5th Sept and 2 at Tutt Head on 12th Sept; **CARMARTHEN**: One at Pembrey Harbour on 31st July; **PEMBROKE**: Only recorded from Strumble Head where 14 birds passed. Those with dates recorded included singles on 29th Aug and 10th Sept, 2 on 11th, 12th and 13th Sept and 4 on 18th Sept; **CEREDIGION**: One at Ynyslas on 19th April, 3 there on 22nd April. In autumn 2 at Ynyslas on 4th Aug, one there from 14th to 21st Aug and one at New Quay on 5th Sept; **BRECON**: One was at Llangorse on 5th May and another was there on 8th July; **ANGLESEY**: One at Cemlyn on 13th May, and 2 on 3rd and 14th June. One flew past Point Lynas on 7th Sept.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
E. GLAMORGAN			25 th Sept	Kenfig Sands
GOWER	19 th April	Blackpill	12 th Sept	Tutt Head
PEMBROKE			18 th Sept	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	19 th April	Ynyslas	5 th Sept	New Quay
BRECON	5 th May	Llangorse Lake		
ANGLESEY	13 th May	Cemlyn	7 th Sept	Point Lynas

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger***CORSWENNOL DDU**

(B) A fairly common passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn but also recorded on inland waters; spring records are usually fewer in number but there are substantial influxes in some years. Wales Amber-listed.

All records were: **GWENT**: One at Peterstone Wentlooge on 31st Aug and another at West Usk lighthouse on 9th Sept; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 26 reports from 6 locations. Two spring reports probably relate to the same birds - 3 off Irongate Point, Porthcawl and 3 off Nash Point on 2nd May. It was a good autumn for this species, all records in Sept - one at Portobello Island on 6th, and again on 21st, Cardiff Bay held 1 from 9th to 13th and reported on River Taff at Hamadryad on 12th, with 2 seen in the Bay on 14th. Two were at Kenfig Pool from 13th to 22nd and 1 there until 30th; **GOWER**: singles at Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir between 6th and 25th Sept, with a max. 2 on 11th; also at Port Talbot Docks on 11th Sept and off Whitford on 1st Oct; **PEMBROKE**: A total of 105 birds passed Strumble Head on 15 dates between 31st Aug & 18th Oct (max. 40 on 18th Sept); One was off Skomer on 12th Sept and a juvenile was at Bosherton Lakes from

30th Oct until 1st Nov; **CEREDIGION**: In spring, one at Ynyslas on 3rd May. At New Quay in Sept, 4 on 5th, a single on 7th, 2 on 12th and 13th and one on 14th and 18th; **BRECON**: A juvenile was present 15th – 18th July at Llangorse Lake, singles were there on the 1st and 18th Sept, followed by 5 on 29th with 3 staying to the 1st Oct. A juvenile at Llangorse on 5th Oct was the last of the year; **RADNOR**: There were single records in April, May and Aug; **CAERNARFON**: Two on Bardsey on 29th Aug and on seven dates in Sept: 3 on 5th, 2 on 7th, 8 on 17th, 5 on 18th, 3 on 20th, 2 on 21st and one on the 29th. In Oct 4 were seen on 4th and the final record of the year was a single on 9th. Elsewhere, one landed on the breakwater at Rhos Point on 6th Sept and there was one there on 8th Sept. Singles flew west past the Little Orme on 8th Sept and 5th Oct; **ANGLESEY**: There were singles at Cemlyn on 2nd May and 9th June, and at Llyn Maeiog on 3rd May, and also 2 at Llyn Traffwll on 3rd and 4th May. Two were at Cemlyn on 3rd Sept and 2 flew past Point Lynas on 6th and 7th Sept. One was at Cemlyn on 8th Sept, 2 were on Traeth Llugwy beach on 12th Sept, 5 flew past Point Lynas on 14th Sept and one was at Cemlyn on 25th Sept; **DENBIGH**: One at RSPB Conwy on 17th Sept.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT			9 th Sept	West Usk Lighthouse
E. GLAMORGAN	2 nd May	off Irongate Point, Porthcawl and off Nash Point	30 th Sept	Kenfig Pool
GOWER			1 st Oct	Whitford
PEMBROKE			1 st Nov	Bosherston Lakes
CEREDIGION	3 rd May	Ynyslas	18 th Sept	New Quay
BRECON			5 th Oct	Llangorse Lake
CAERNARFON			9 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	2 nd May	Cemlyn	25 th Sept	Cemlyn

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

MORWENNOL BIGDDU

(C) A summer visitor and passage migrant to coastal areas in spring and autumn, scarce inland. Breeds only on Anglesey. Wales Amber-listed.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	2 nd April	Goldcliff foreshore		
E. GLAMORGAN	10 th April	Sker Mussel Beds	19 th Oct	Newton Pt. – Porthcawl & Sker Pt.
GOWER	27 th March	Bracelet Bay	16 th Oct	Blackpill
CARMARTHEN	27 th March	Carmarthen Bay Caravan Site	13 th Oct	Burry Port
CEREDIGION	26 th March	Aberystwyth	26 th Nov	Ynyslas
BRECON	2 nd April	Llangorse Lake	2 nd Oct	near Llanwrthwl
MEIRIONNYDD			4 th Sept	Aber Dysynni

CAERNARFON	27 th March	Bardsey	15 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	20 th March	Holyhead Harbour	1 st Nov	Cemlyn

Breeding records were: **ANGLESEY**: A minimum of 1,700 pairs were present at Cemlyn, a record count for the 2nd consecutive year, and a more successful breeding season than 2010, with an estimated 1,500 fledglings produced.

Large counts elsewhere were: **GOWER**: 180 at the Loughor Estuary Breakwater on 1st Aug, 108 at Port Eynon on 11th Sept, 120 at Tutt Head on 12th Sept, 171 at Salthouse Point on 13th Sept, 82 at Whitford on 1st Oct; **CARMARTHEN**: 53 at Pembrey Harbour on 10th April; 198 at Pembrey Harbour on 30th July, 272 there on 5th Aug, 231 on 14th and 275 on 19th Aug; **PEMBROKE**: From Strumble Head, 200 recorded in Aug and a further 541 in Sept (max. count there was 220 on 13th Sept); **CEREDIGION**: 178 at Ynyslas on 12th Aug; **CAERNARFON**: 462+ flew past the Little Orme between 5th Aug and 9th Oct and 320 passed Porth Ysgaden on 12th Sept. Monthly max. counts at Traeth Lafan were 230 in July, 350 in Aug, and 200+ in Sept. Numbers passing Bardsey peaked at 193 on 29th Aug and 275 on 12th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: 150-200 were at Cemlyn on 10th April, 165 were at Porth Penmon on 23rd April, 200+ flew west past Point Lynas on 5th Sept, In the inland counties, singles at Llangorse **BRECON** on 2nd and 22nd April and on 28th May. In autumn, one at Llangorse on 13th Sept, and 2 (1adult/1 juv.) flying north up the Wellfield valley near Llanwrthwl on 2nd Oct.

A colour-ringed juv. at Ynyslas **CEREDIGION** on 3rd Aug had been ringed as a chick at the Ythan Estuary near Aberdeen in north-east Scotland on 24th June. It was subsequently seen on 7th Feb 2012 at Walvis Bay Oyster Beds in Namibia, south-west Africa.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN

(C) A summer visitor, which breeds in Anglesey and Flint. It is a spring and autumn passage migrant to all coastal areas and is the commonest of the *Sterna* species inland. Wales Red-listed.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	22 nd May	Goldcliff lagoons	17 th Sept	Uskmouth & Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	25 th June	Porthcawl	25 th Sept	Sker Mussel Beds
GOWER	9 th April	Crymlyn Burrows	30 th Oct	Blackpill
CARMARTHEN	12 th May	Carmarthen Bay Caravan Site	2 nd Oct	Cefn Sidan
PEMBROKE			19 th Oct	Teifi Estuary
CEREDIGION	2 nd May	Ynyslas	16 th Oct	Teifi Estuary
BRECON			17 th Oct	Talybont Reservoir
CAERNARFON			10 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	22 nd April	Cemlyn	8 th Oct	Traeth Llwgwy beach

Breeding records were: **ANGLESEY:** 155 pairs bred at Cemlyn producing an estimated 110 young, and 259 AON were recorded on the Skerries; **FLINT:** As in 2010, no breeding birds were recorded at Shotton Steel Works.

Large counts elsewhere were: **GOWER:** 305 at River Loughor Breakwater on 1st Aug; 420 at Mumbles foreshore and 450 heading west at Tutt Head on 12th Sept; **CARMARTHEN:** 81 at Pembrey Harbour on 30th July, increasing to 91 on 31st and 93 on 1st Aug; **CEREDIGION:** 350 Common/Arctic terns at Ynyslas on 22nd April, following a thunderstorm, was an exceptional number; 40 Common Terns were there on 3rd May and 147 at New Quay on 4th Aug; **BRECON:** 134 on 4th Aug at Llangorse Lake was exceptional and includes the largest flock ever seen in the county; **CAERNARFON:** 65 at Bardsey on 7th Sept and 188 there on 12th; **ANGLESEY:** 480 'commic' terns (mostly Common) flew past Point Lynas on 7th Sept; 450 were on Traeth Llugwy beach during gales on 12th Sept.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

MORWENNOL WRIDOG

(A) Now only an occasional breeder on Anglesey; elsewhere scarce on spring and autumn passage at coastal sites. Wales Red-listed.

All records were: **GOWER:** One at Pwll-y-Froga on 1st Aug; **CARMARTHEN:** An adult at Pembrey Harbour on 1st Aug was the second successive annual record, following a gap of 21 years; **PEMBROKE:** Fourteen birds recorded, all passing Strumble Head. In Aug there were singles on the 8th and 9th and three on the 29th. In Sept, 3 on the 5th, 2 on the 11th and 18th with single birds on 13th and 14th; **CEREDIGION:** An adult recorded flying south off Mwnt on 8th Sept; **CAERNARFON:** Single adults at Y Foryd on 12th June, off the Little Orme on 8th Sept and off Porth Ysgaden on 6th Oct; **ANGLESEY:** A bird attempted to breed again, as in 2011 with a Common Tern, on the Skerries, recorded on 19th May. One was at Cemlyn on 7th and 25th May, a ringed adult was present between 20th June and 11th July, and another adult was there on 7th and 9th July. Two flew past Point Lynas on 7th Sept, and there was an adult on Traeth Llugwy beach on 12th Sept.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

(C) The commonest of the tern species breeding in Wales. It is confined to the Anglesey coast for breeding. Away from there, it is a regular passage migrant to coastal areas, generally scarcer than Common. Scarce inland. Wales Red-listed.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT			18 th Sept	Uskmouth
E. GLAMORGAN	25 th April	Cardiff Heliport	10 th Oct	Porthcawl
GOWER			22 nd Oct	North of Worm's Head
CARMARTHEN			30 th Oct	Llansteffan
PEMBROKE			19 th Oct	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	2 nd May	Ynyslas	1 st Nov	Ynyslas
BRECON	5 th May	Llangorse Lake	29 th Sept	Llangorse Lake

MEIRIONNYDD			25 th Oct	Aber Dysynni
CAERNARFON	5 th April	Llandudno	19 th Oct	Little Orme
ANGLESEY	28 th April	Cemlyn	1 st Nov	Cemlyn

Breeding records were: **ANGLESEY:** There were 3,035 AON on the Skerries, 35 pairs fledged 25 young at Cemlyn and there were 12 at the Inland Sea colony.

Large counts elsewhere were: **E. GLAMORGAN:** 34 off Cardiff Heliport on 25th April, 24 off Porthcawl on 7th Sept and 51 there on 12th Sept; **PEMBROKE:** A total of 211 passed Strumble Head on 10 dates between 4th Sept and 19th Oct (max. 102 on the 7th Oct); **CEREDGION:** 160 were at Ynyslas on 2nd May with 220 there on 3rd May and 32 were at Mwnt on 6th Oct; **CAERNARFON:** The highest counts were 24 flying east past the Little Orme on 10th Sept and 35 between the Seiont and Llyfni estuaries on 15th May. On Bardsey, passage peaked in Oct, with max. counts of 32 on the 4th, 62 on the 5th and 39 on the 6th; **ANGLESEY:** 130 passed Point Lynas on 9th Aug with 32 there on 7th Oct.

Inland records came from Llangorse Lake **BRECON**, where there were two in summer plumage on 5th May, a single that dropped in for 40 minutes in unsettled weather on 8th May and one on 25th June. A mobile bird covered both Pentwyn and Pontsticill Reservoirs on 11th Sept and the last was a single at Llangorse on 29th Sept.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

GWYLOG

(C) Resident breeding species in south-west and north-west counties, moving out to sea to moult after breeding and returning to the vicinity of colonies as early as December. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding season counts were received as follows: **GOWER:** Bred at Worm's Head, with 256 birds on ledges on 21st June; **PEMBROKE:** The breeding numbers on Skomer continue to rise, with 21,866 individuals counted, a 5-year change of +23.62 %. On Skokholm, there were 2,212 individuals on land in early June, compared to 1,795 in 2010 (JNCC data). There were 15,465 on Castlemartin peninsula; **CEREDIGION:** No breeding surveys were carried out in 2011; **CAERNARFON:** A count at Carreg y Llam on 1st July produced an estimate of 13,520 individuals on the ledges. Counts on the Ormes on 29th June produced 1,478 individuals on the Great Orme and 516 on the Little Orme. On Bardsey, 981 adults on ledges (AOL) were recorded, a figure almost identical to 2010, 24.7% more than the 2002-2011 mean. Productivity was calculated at the largest colony to be 0.30 chicks per pair. The downward trend of the last six years continued on Ynysoedd Gwylan, with only 77 AOL recorded and with three traditional sub-colonies being empty altogether. Breeding was also recorded at Braich y Noddfa. A total of 3,160 birds was counted passing Bardsey on 29th Dec, the highest ever passage count for the island; **ANGLESEY:** There were 8,014 birds in the South Stack area, on the reserve and the adjacent areas including South Stack Island. 3,072 were on Puffin Island on the 20th June, and there is also a significant colony on Middle Mouse near Cemaes.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

LLURS

(C) A breeding resident on the cliffs and islands of north-west and south-west Wales. Some disperse south to the Portuguese coasts in winter with a proportion entering the Mediterranean; part of the population remains in Welsh waters.

Breeding counts were received as follows: **GOWER:** Bred at Worm's Head, with 58 birds on ledges on 16th June. 3,000 north of Worm's Head on 22nd Oct; **PEMBROKE:** 5,118 individuals counted on Skomer and 1,200 on Castlemartin peninsula; **CEREDIGION:** No breeding surveys were carried out in 2011; **CAERNARFON:** A count at Carreg y Llam on 1st July produced an estimate of 1,134 individuals on the ledges. There were 261 individuals on the ledges at the Great Orme on 29th June, with 49 on the Little Orme. On Bardsey, the maximum count of adult Razorbills was 1,560, compared to 1,626 last year and well below the traditional total of approximately 2,000 adults. A total of 92 young were ringed, 190 fewer than last year. In addition to the birds ringed, there were a further 186 young or eggs in the traditionally monitored colonies. The combined total of 278 eggs and young is a 30.5% decline on the 2010 total and 18.9% below the 2002-2011 mean. Results from two study plots showed productivity of 0.51 fledged chicks per pair. On Ynysoedd Gwylan 35 adults were recorded, four more than last year. A total of 17 eggs/young was the most recorded since 2007, but still 52.8% down on the 2003-2011 mean. Elsewhere, breeding was recorded at Braich y Noddfa; **ANGLESEY:** 839 birds were on Puffin Island on the 20th June. At South Stack in the breeding season 1,147 birds were on the reserve and South Stack island. A few birds are thought to breed at Carmel Head with larger numbers at Middle Mouse, and there were 3 nests on The Skerries.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*

GWYLOG DDU

(A) A very scarce breeding resident in Anglesey and rarely elsewhere in north Wales. Occurs sparingly off the coasts of Wales outside the breeding season. Wales Amber-listed. Wales Amber-listed.

PEMBROKE: Three individuals were reported in Fishguard Harbour from January onwards, with a pair remaining to breed, fledging one young. A single was seen off Skomer on 15th Oct, the ninth island record, and off Strumble Head on 5th Sept; **CEREDIGION:** One in summer plumage was seen flying in from the north-west and landing just off Castle Rocks, Aberystwyth on 14th May and was seen the next day off the pier; **CAERNARFON:** There were 3 in the Menai Strait near Aber Ogwen on 1st June, one at Llanfairfechan on 3rd Aug and 3 off Penmaenmawr on 13th Sept. Further west there were two off Porth Ysgaden on 13th Sept.. One was seen ashore on the east side of Bardsey on 28th April. In August one was seen here on 1st, with others seen on 13th Sept and 21st Oct; **ANGLESEY:** No confirmed breeding, though there was a juvenile bird in Holyhead Harbour on the 1st Sept and birds were seen in the breeding season at Fedw Fawr and Porth Eilian.

Only one site produced double-figure counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ANGLESEY												
Holyhead harbour	8	10	4	6		10	8			1		8

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

CARFIL BACH

(A) Scarce winter visitor in irregular numbers offshore on the western seaboard. Most sightings in late autumn and early winter; often associated with westerly gales.

MEIRIONNYDD: One flew close inshore off Llandanwg beach on 22nd Nov; **CAERNARFON:** The only record was a single off Bardsey on 19th Nov; **ANGLESEY:** One flew west past Point Lynas on 22nd Nov, and one flew past North Stack on 16th Dec.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*

PAL

(C) A breeding bird of offshore islands and a few western headlands. Formerly bred in large numbers. Wales Red-listed.

Counts from breeding colonies included: **PEMBROKE:** No whole island counts done on Skomer this year but productivity was 0.84 young per burrow. Two AOS on Castlemartin peninsula. Confirmed breeding on Bishops & Clerks with a max count of 58 on North Bishop on 5th June. At Strumble Head 326 birds passed during the year on dates between 8th May and a very late bird on 17th Dec. Max 233 on 17th July; **CAERNARFON:** Up to 34 birds, 18 fewer than in 2010, were seen regularly around the Razorbill colonies on Bardsey. On Ynys Gwylan Fawr 642 apparently occupied burrows (AOB) were recorded while on Ynys Gwylan Bach 117 AOB were recorded. The combined total of 759 AOB is the most recorded since 2001, although it should be noted that often only partial counts are possible; **ANGLESEY:** On the Skerries there were 306 apparently occupied burrows during the breeding season. At South Stack a maximum of 16 birds were seen in 2011 (RSPB), and at Puffin Island a max of 40+ was recorded on the 9th July.

2010: **ANGLESEY:** CCW estimated 8 pairs on Puffin Island

FERAL PIGEON*Columba livia*

COLOMEN Y GRAIG

(C) Common resident in most towns and on some sea cliffs. The true Rock Dove is no longer found in Wales.

GWENT: Very little reported, though present in most urban areas, often in considerable numbers; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 125 at Roath Park, Cardiff on 31st Jan, 156 at Cardiff ST1576 on 10th April and 99 there on 8th May, and 100 at Pontypridd on 17th Nov; **GOWER:** Bred at Taibach, Pen-y-cae and Afan Estuary. Up to 250 at Port Talbot town centre all year, 105 in a field north of Paviland Manor on 30th Dec; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Bred at Tywyn and Blaenau Ffestiniog; **CAERNARFON:** There were 70 at Caernarfon on 13th Oct; **ANGLESEY:** Present throughout the island in small-medium numbers. Probably bred at Bryn Aber, Cemlyn, with 43 here on 29th April, also 65 at Beaumaris Castle on 16th Oct.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

COLOMEN WYLLT

(C) Breeding resident occurring widely but not numerous up to approximately 305 m; most common in lowland areas. Appears to be getting scarcer across most of Wales, probably as a result of a change in farming practices and a decline in arable land.

GWENT: One was seen carrying material to a possible nest site at Penperlleni on 16th June, with pairs at several other sites. Large counts were 124 in the Monnow valley near Osbaston on 6th March and 56 in the lower Monnow valley on 18th Dec; **E. GLAMORGAN:** No confirmed breeding reports, but possible breeding at Mynydd Tylwyn, Maesteg. 30 at Bonvilston on 18th Jan, 16 there on 17th Feb and 100 on 11th March; **GOWER:** Bred at Llanrhidian village, near Llanmadoc Farm and Hambury Wood, and probably bred at Margam Park and Graig Goch. The largest flock recorded was 11 at Monksland on 8th Jan; **CARMARTHEN:** Bred at White Mill/Capel Dewi and Pant yr Athro, Llansteffan, with breeding season records from three other sites; **PEMBROKE:** Max flocks were 50 at Houghton on 4th March, 25 at Saundersfoot on 20th Feb, 18 at Kilgetty on 20th Feb and 14 at Carew on 28th Dec. Birds were noted in the breeding season at Glynaron Forest, Knock Fm, Llandilo, Marloes, Milton, Kilgetty, New Hedges, Rudbaxton, Sealyham and between Cilgerran and Llechryd where 4 pairs held territories. Two on Skomer on 2nd Jan; **CEREDIGION:** A decrease in records this year with 30 records from 17 sites, compared to 36 records from 26 sites in 2010. Nesting records at Capel Bangor, three pairs near Tregaron and four pairs at Stagshead, with breeding season records from 13 sites. Outside the breeding season the largest flocks were twenty at Llanon on 17th February, 130 near Pontrhydygroes on 19th February and 14 at Llanon on 10th November; **BRECON:** Largest early year flock was 43 at Ffordd Fawr on 30th Jan. Forty-two singing males or pairs in suitable breeding habitat were noted in spring, the first song being heard at Hall Farm, Llangenny on 23rd Jan. Post-breeding, arable crop stubbles attracted 50 to Pontywal Lane (Bronllys) on 25th Sept; **RADNOR:** 52 at Clyro in January, 45 at New Radnor in September; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Birds were recorded in the breeding season at three sites; **CAERNARFON:** There were more records than usual this year, with the highest count 25 at Llanllechid on 19th Jan and records from 10 other sites; **ANGLESEY:** Recorded in the breeding season from 7 sites. The highest count was 13 at Aberffraw on the 19th Nov.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

YSGUTHAN

(C) Abundant breeding species: passage migrant and winter visitor.

GWENT: Breeding was, as always, under-recorded, with nest-building observed at three sites, display was at one site and a bird was seen on the nest near Aberbargoed. In Wentwood ten birds were still singing on 6th Aug; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Breeding was confirmed at Shwt, Cardiff County Hall and Rudry Common and birds were seen nest building at Ewenny and in Whitchurch, Cardiff. Breeding was reported as possible or probable at Miskin, Llysant, Glyncomel, Treforest, and Pontyclun; **GOWER:** Bred at 15 locations; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Breeding records received from five sites; **CAERNARFON:** Bred at 3 mainland locations. At least nine territorial pairs were identified on Bardsey, and four fledglings were recorded, two more than in the last two years; **ANGLESEY:** At Cemlyn, at least one pair is thought to have bred in Bryn Aber, and possibly another near Ty'n Llan.

Large counts (300+) included: **GWENT:** Although numbers in the first five months were lower than those of last year, high counts in the second winter period totally eclipsed 2010's 'exceptional' tallies. Autumn passage began in late Oct with 'hundreds' flying west at NWR Uskmouth on 26th Oct and 470 west at Mynydd Garnlochdy on 28th. Numbers increased rapidly on the 29th with 3,000 (in flocks of 300-400) seen in ten

minutes at Chepstow, 3,900 counted in an hour at Peterstone Wentlooge and 6,000 reported at NWR Uskmouth. Passage peaked in early Nov: 500 at Peterstone Wentlooge on the 4th was followed the next day by one of 15,000 birds moving south-east at NWR Goldcliff. The 6th Nov brought an incredible 98,470, moving on a broad front between the foot of the coastal hills at Peterstone Wentlooge to a point at least 2km out to sea. At one point the entire southern horizon was covered by a long, strung-out flock of around 10,000 birds, followed ten minutes later by one of 9,000. There were widespread inland reports on the same day although tallies were much lower: 300 in western Newport, at least 800 at Parc Coetir Bargoed, 2,500 heading east in one hour at Clydach Gorge, 'many thousands' heading southwest towards the coast at Shirenewton and several hundred near Llangybi; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Large counts were all in autumn when overhead passage was observed: 15,000 at Cardiff Wales Airport on 28th Oct, 540 at Llanedeyrn on 20th Oct, 1,370 on 28th Oct, 940 on 29th Oct and 5,110 on 6th Nov, 300 at Nantgarw on 29th Oct and 800 at Hirwaun on 7th Nov; **GOWER:** 1,000 at Llanrhidian on 7th Nov; **PEMBROKE:** 520 on Skomer on 5th Nov; **CEREDIGION:** 300 at Nanteos pool on 9th Nov.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

TURTUR DORCHOG

(C) Now a widespread and common resident, having first appeared in Wales in 1959.

Counts of 20 or more were: **GWENT:** 28 at Caldicot Castle on 14th Nov ; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 20 at St. Brides Major on 12th Feb, 23 at Monknash on 15th Feb; **GOWER:** Bred at 7 sites. 28 at Gnoll Country Park on 9th Jan, 20 at Southgate on 3rd July; **ANGLESEY:** 20 around Plas Cemlyn on the 23rd April, 40 at the Alaw Estuary on the 9th July and 34 west of Wylfa on the 13th Nov.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

TURTUR

(B) Very rare summer visitor in eastern Wales with numbers declining further; passage migrant, mainly spring, in small numbers. Wales Red-listed.

GWENT: There were two records, both of single birds, at Pen-y-lan, Bassaleg from 14th to 22nd July at least and, surprisingly, a bird seen with a small group of Collared Doves at Peterstone church on 28th Dec; **E. GLAMORGAN:** One at Porthcawl on the very early date of 22nd Feb. One was discovered at Wentloog, Rumney on 11th Sep and was seen there the following day. It subsequently relocated to Parc Tredelerch (Lamby Lake) and was reported there on 18th and 26th and 27th Sep.; **GOWER:** One at Llanrhidian Marsh on 1st May; **PEMBROKE:** One at Strumble Head on the very unusual date of 31st Dec 2010 until 1st Jan. The only other records were of singles on Skomer on 20th April-1st May, at Porthsychan on 7th May, at Mullock Farm on 10th Sept, at Marloes on 18th Oct and at St. David's Head on 27th Oct; **CEREDIGION:** One in a garden at Bow Street on 19th June was the only record; **RADNOR:** Recorded at 4 sites between 15th May and 14th Aug, one pair bred; **CAERNARFON:** One was seen on Bardsey on 22nd April, with another seen there from 8th to 11th May. One was feeding on the road between Groeslon and Rhostryfan on 27th June and there was one on Morfa Conwy near the golf club on 22nd Sept ; **ANGLESEY:** There was one at Cors Goch on the 2nd Aug and one on garden feeders at Holyhead on 7th Oct.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri***PARACIT TORCHOG**(A) *Feral.*

GWENT: A bird frequented Cwmbran in Jan and Feb, being first seen in Oakfield on 16th Jan and at the Boating Lake on 6th and 7th Feb. One was seen briefly at Llandogo on 20th July and a parakeet at Wyesham on 28th Nov may well have been of this species; **GOWER:** A male at Singleton Park seen on several dates from 27th Jan to 27th Dec; **CAERNARFON:** The bird that arrived on Bardsey in June 2010 was killed by a Sparrowhawk on 27th March. There was one at Llanrhos on 27th Dec; **ANGLESEY:** One escaped from near Rhoscefnhir at the end of November, appearing in Benllech at the Fern Hill estate at the beginning of December, staying into 2012.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus***COG**

(C) *Formerly a locally common breeding summer visitor to all counties but appears to be declining and far from common; also recorded on passage. Wales Red-listed.*

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	9 th April	Wentwood & Mynydd Llangattock	30 th July	NWR Uskmouth
E. GLAMORGAN	7 th April	Trowbridge, Cardiff	3 rd July	Coedarthdyglyn
GOWER	21 st April	Ton Clawdd/Tyrwaun & Rheola Forest		
CARMARTHEN	15 th April	Pâl y Cwrt	12 th July	Pâl y Cwrt
PEMBROKE	16 th April	Ty Rhyg	27 th July	Plumstone Mountain
CEREDIGION	2 nd April	Grogwynion	1 st July	Coed Dolgoed
BRECON	14 th April	Glasfynydd Forest	11 th July	Gofynne (Maesmynis)
MEIRIONNYDD	14 th April	Ynysfor	9 th June	Hendwr track, Berwyn
CAERNARFON	17 th April	Tyddyn Rhyddid	29 th July	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	10 th April	Mynydd Bodafon	8 th June	Llyn Trawfll

GWENT: Approximately 125 records spread fairly widely across the county. The majority of reports (roughly 70) came from inland sites, with the highest count three birds at Mynydd Llanhilleth Mountain, St Mary's Vale, Newport Wetlands, Cleddon Bog, The British and Bulmore; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Records from 32 locations. There were no confirmed breeding reports and only a single categorised 'possible', at Mynydd Pen-y-Graig (male singing in suitable habitat); **GOWER:** Singing males reported from 49 localities, male and female at two sites; **CARMARTHEN:** Records were received from 18 locations which is a slight increase from 2010; **CEREDIGION:** Recorded from 22 locations, compared to 25 locations in 2010; **BRECON:** Observers reported a lack of singing males around Velindre, Talgarth and Bronffynnon. While there has been a decline in numbers both nationally and within Breconshire, the concentration of birds into upland and common-land areas is increasingly noticeable. Here they appear to rely fully on Meadow Pipits as a nest-site host, although few records of females are received. Records of singing males came from 28 locations by the end of April, including 4 males heard simultaneously along the foot of the Black Mountains from Tretower to Crickhowell on 23rd; **RADNOR:** Another noticeable increase; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Birds were recorded at 39 sites. Larger counts include five singing south of Llyn Tanygrisiau on 22nd April, six singing at Rhyd-wen, Coedydd

Penllyn on 13th May, five at Cwm Llechen on 14th May, five at Cwm Bychan, Rhinogau, on 1st June and five in the Craig yr Hafod/Graig Ddu area, Cwm Hesgyn on 3rd June; **CAERNARFON**: Records from 33 sites; **ANGLESEY**: Recorded from 11 sites.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

TYLLUAN WEN

(C) A breeding resident in all counties. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: This year's 26 records represented a 40% decrease over 2010. Over the last six years at least, numbers of reports have fluctuated between 22 and 45. In May, nests at Llanarth and NWR held five and four eggs respectively; in the same month a nest at Llanfair Kilgeddin was found to contain five eggs but only four chicks were seen in June. Pairs at Ysgyryd Fach and Blaenau Gwent both raised three chicks and a pair was reported to have bred near Markham for the last three years; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Just one confirmed breeding report, at House o' the Trees near Caerlan Farm, where there were 2 young. A juv/imm was seen with ads at Brynmawr Mast, Maesteg on the late date of 28th Oct, and birds were recorded in the breeding season at 5 other sites. Overall, far fewer reports than in 2010, 23 as opposed to 83, from 17 locations, half as many as in 2010; **GOWER**: Bred at Llanrhidian Church, probably bred at Mynydd Dinas/Cwmafon. Birds reported from 20 locations; **CARMARTHEN**: Breeding was noted at Ammanford and near Rhydcymerau, with records from two other areas; **PEMBROKE**: Reported from 14 locations, four of which during the breeding season. The cold winter of 2010-11 probably had an effect on the size of the population. A pair seen on Skomer from 1st May to 3rd June did not stay to breed; **CEREDIGION**: 29 recently occupied sites in the north of the county from Tregaron up to the Dyfi were checked for occupation. Following two severe winters the number in use was the lowest for many years. Of the 29, only 15 were occupied with at least 17 nesting attempts being made (includes 2 second broods). A minimum of 33 young were produced but the number fledged at 4 nests is unknown so probably in excess of 40 young; **BRECON**: The severe weather of both the 2009-10 and 2010-11 winters led to losses, with known casualties in a Halfway barn, and one bird from a breeding pair at Upper Chapel succumbed. There were no reports of confirmed breeding, although hunting birds were seen at three locations during the summer in the Brecon and Talgarth areas. There were no records from north of the Epynt at any time of year; **RADNOR**: Only 6-8 pairs found; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Out of seven usually productive Barn Owl boxes checked in Meirionnydd, only one was found to be occupied, containing three chicks. Birds were recorded at 9 sites, though six of these were in the same area and probably involved only 1-2 pairs; **CAERNARFON**: Recorded at four sites; **ANGLESEY**: Birds were recorded at 10 sites. One pair bred at Llanfaelog and 3 chicks were ringed on the 9th June.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

TYLLUAN FACH

(C) Locally common breeding resident in most eastern counties, scarcer and probably decreasing in the west. Greatly under-recorded.

GWENT: There was a downturn in the number of records this year with 33 compared with 50 in 2010. All except one were of single birds and there were no reports of breeding anywhere in the county. Most sightings were at NWR, where there were four in March and five in Aug. Two birds were noted there on 19th Nov. Elsewhere on the

coast singles were seen at Sluice Farm and at Peterstone Wentlooge. Inland sightings came from Llanwenarth, Trefil, Mill Common (Magor), Ysgyryd Fach, The Bryn, Llandegfedd Reservoir and Brynithel; **E. GLAMORGAN:** There were very few reports this year and no confirmed breeding reports. Reports from 6 locations: one at Sker Farm, on 1st and 6th Jan, 2 at Ogmore-by-Sea on 15th Feb and 1 there on 17th May and 13th June, one at Mynydd Caerau, Maesteg and one at Sker on 3rd July, one at Ogmore-by-Sea on 21st July and 1st Sept, 1 at Cymylau on 15th Aug, 2 at Parc Slip NR on 2nd Oct and 1 at Cwmbach on 8th Oct; **GOWER:** Singles calling in Pen-y-cae area on 5th Feb and 11th May and near Neath Railway Station on 7th Oct; **CARMARTHEN:** Bred at Talog where a pair was seen with a fledgling on 25th June. The only other record was of 1 seen near Kidwelly Quay along Kymer's Canal on 2nd April; **PEMBROKE:** Single St. Ishmaels on 23rd Sept was the only mainland record. One pair reared three young on Skomer and three pairs on Ramsey; **CEREDIGION:** Recorded from only two locations with one at Ffos las, near Morfa Bychan on 15th April and seen on a number of dates at Upper Borth from August to the end of the year; **BRECON:** Additional effort to find breeding territories for the BTO Atlas was rewarded with four new locations. Pairs were confirmed breeding at new sites within their former range near Bronllys, Talgarth and Glasbury, and at least one bird was seen regularly at Ystrad quarry. Evidence of occupation was also found in quarry spoil at Penwyllt. These developments are countered by the possible loss of traditional pairs at Cathedine and Scethrog with no birds seen or heard in 2011, and at the third regular site, Slwch Farm, only one adult was seen on one date in March; **RADNOR:** Four occupied sites; **CAERNARFON:** There was one at Edern on 15th June, one at Pistyll on 19th June and one calling near the Morfa Aber car park on 3rd Nov. A minimum of three territories were recorded on Bardsey, one fewer than in 2010. One pair fledged two chicks; **ANGLESEY:** Birds were recorded from 14 locations. A pair was feeding young at Valley on the 9th June, also bred at Hendre SH47U and possibly bred at Cemlyn, with 2 birds seen on 1st Aug. A pair was seen west of Llansadwrn on 15th and 16th April. Three birds were together at Mynachdy Farm on the 30th July.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

TYLLUAN FRECH

(C) A common and widespread breeding resident in areas of woodland in all counties but possibly declining.

GWENT: Breeding was reported only at two sites; in a garden on Ysgyryd Fach and at Lower Ochrwyth, though singing males were reported from at least 15 sites. Near Trellech, a juvenile was taken by a Goshawk on 11th June; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Apparently successful breeding in Coed Ruperra, at Garth Hill, Maesteg and Caerlan Farm. Breeding was deemed possible or probable at Shwt, Darwonno, Penygraig, Rudry Village, and Mynydd Ty-isaf. 1 or 2 birds were reported at nineteen widespread sites in the southern half of the recording area; **GOWER:** Bred at 5 sites and present at another. 1-2 birds reported from a further 14 locations; **CARMARTHEN:** Recorded at 8 sites; **BRECON:** Atlas monitoring between Pennorth and Hay on 28th July found nine occupied tetrads, six of which held calling juveniles or families, including at least four squeaking juveniles at Llwynberried Farm and three at Tack Wood. Other reports of confirmed breeding came from nestboxes in Cnwch Wood (Elan) and Belfont forestry, both fledging in mid-May, a pair raised two chicks in a split tree at Duhonw, and pairs bred in Tallyllyn tunnel and at Treberfydd Farm. Juveniles were also heard at Gorslwyd (Senni), Defynnog, Pentrefelin, Danyderi Farm (Scethrog), near Tregunter,

and 4 calling birds at Lower Neuadd Reservoir in October was probably a family party. Late in the year, seven males called at night along the Honddu valley between Llandefaelog and Upper Chapel on 19th November, and a pair roosted in ivy on a derelict building at Tynywern, Pontfaen on 14th December. Several casualties, all likely to be juveniles, were reported on the county's trunk roads between late May and the end of Sept; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One found dead in Coed Bryn Hynod, Llyn Tegid on 6th Feb. Birds present at Rhiwbrydir in the breeding season; **CAERNARFON**: An adult was seen with 3 newly fledged young at Abererch on 13th June and fledged young were also seen in two different areas at Gyffin, Conwy, at Groesffordd, Conwy and at Bangor Roman Camp. Birds were recorded at 12 other sites; **ANGLESEY**: Birds were recorded throughout the island. Breeding was recorded at Mynydd Bodafon, with a fledged bird seen on the 21st June.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

(B) A scarce resident in some counties. Also a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: The only information received related to the breeding population in the north of the county, where eight pairs attempted to nest. Fledging success was unknown; **CEREDIGION**: One was at the Teifi marshes on 17th and 18th April. A pair bred near Cors Caron with young heard on 5th June and two juveniles were heard calling near Cwmystwyth on 11th Aug; **BRECON**: Breeding was confirmed at one traditional area with juveniles heard in July, and suspected at another regular location. At a new site on Epynt, a calling bird in March was believed to be of this species; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One at Stablau, Berwyn on 10th March and one in Cynwyd forest on 6th April. A pair bred in the Bronaber, Trawsfynydd area with young seen on 16th May; **CAERNARFON**: One on Bardsey on 25th Oct was the only record of the year; **ANGLESEY**: There was one at Cors Goch on 2nd March and one on Ynys Gorad Goch in The Swellies, Menai Strait, on 30th Aug.

SHORT-EARED OWL *A. flammeus*

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

(C) Scarce breeding resident. Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers to all counties. Wales Red-listed.

Several counties recorded unusual numbers in the second winter period, following a large irruption of birds arriving over the North Sea in mid-October. **GWENT**: Of the 23 records, 17 were coastal and 12 inland, all but one of the latter coming from Waun Afon Bog. Inland sightings predominated over coastal ones in the first winter period, max 3 at Waun Afon Bog on 23rd Jan. In the second winter period, most records came from the coast, peaking at 7 at Sluice Farm on 22nd Nov and five at Peterstone Great Wharf on 28th Nov; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Single birds at Llanilid on 18th Jan and 13th Feb, possibly the same wintering individual. In Oct, there was one at CBWR on 15th, 1 at Lavernock Pt LNR on 18th, 1 at Merthyr Mawr on 19th, 2 at Llanilid on 30th and 31st. The number at the latter site increased to 4 by 6th Nov and was down to 1 on 12th and 13th Nov. Rumney Great Wharf/Wentloog Level in the east then saw an influx in Nov with 6 on 13th, then reported in varying numbers with double figure counts of 11 on 24th and 25th, 12 on 26th and max 15 on 27th. Birds continued to be reported here through the remainder of Nov and into Dec with 11 on 7th Dec, and the last report being of 4 on

27th. There was 1 at Kenfig NNR on 8th Dec; **GOWER**: One at Llangennith Moors on 10th April. In the second winter period, recorded at Llanrhidian Marsh from 29th Oct to 27th Dec, with 3 there on 19th Nov and 2 on 26th Dec. Two at Rhossili Vile on 6th Nov, at Baglan Bay dunes on 19th Nov, Port Talbot Harbour and Crymlyn Burrows on 20th Nov and at Pen-Cae'r-Lan/Mynydd y Drum on 10th Dec; **CARMARTHEN**: Records for the early winter period were of singles at Kidwelly Marsh on 23rd Jan and Penclacwydd on 22nd March. The first autumn record was of one over Machynys Golf Course on 30th Oct, followed by 2 at Penclacwydd on 30th Nov and 10th Dec; **PEMBROKE**: More mainland records than usual with max of three at Dowrog on 27th Oct and 10th Dec. Singles were seen at St. David's Air Field, Dale Air Field, Martin's Haven, Plumstone Mountain, Ramsey, St. Govan's Head and Trefeiddan, during the winter months with two at Strumble Head during December. On Skomer one pair fledged four chicks a second pair established a territory but did not breed; **CEREDIGION**: Seen at Cors Caron with singles on 20th Jan and 31st Dec, at Cors Fochno on 7th March, Pengarreg Gopa on 19th April, Llanrhystud on 15th Oct, numerous records from Ynyslas/Leri from 24th October with up to two seen several dates to the end of the year, at Aberleri on 19th Nov, RSPB Ynys-hir with singles on 11 dates from 1st Dec to the end of the year and from Rhos Llaur Cwrt on 5th Dec; **BRECON**: The best series of records for many years. One flushed from upland grassland at Bryniau Gleision near Tarpantau (Beacons) on 16th Oct, followed by another resting on roadside fenceposts at Cwmowen on 27th. In Nov, one hunted rank grassland at Heollas (Bwlch) from 6th – 18th Nov with a second bird present on at least the 10th and 13th, one hunting Twyn-y-post common above Upper Chapel on 21st and one at dusk at Aberebwl Farm near Tirabad on 29th. One hunted at Crai Reservoir on 27th Dec; **MONTGOMERY**: A long-dead bird was found at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy in late Feb, with possible sightings here in March and April; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One at Morfa Harlech on 8th Nov, one at Gyfyng, Migneint on 9th Nov, one at Hafod Uchel, Berwyn on 9th Nov and one at Pale, Milltir Gerrig, Berwyn on 25th Nov; **CAERNARFON**: On Bardsey, there were three singles in the first two weeks of January, and then four on 22nd. One was seen on 13th, 19th and 22nd Feb, and an unseasonal record of one on 27th May. In autumn one was seen on 14th Oct, followed the next day by four. On the 16th 24 birds was recorded, part of a major influx into the UK. Single flocks of 15 and 8 were flushed from bracken on the side of the Mountain, with many singles seen during the day. The following day just one bird was seen. There was then a single on 22nd and two on 25th-28th. There were 12 records of singles in November, plus three on the 8th. In December one was seen on 3rd. This is by far the best year for this species on the island. Elsewhere, one came in off the sea at Penmaenmawr on 24th Oct and flew inland; **ANGLESEY**: One at Cors Bodeiilio, and one hunting over the west end of the Bodorgan Estate on the 3rd Jan, one at Cemlyn on the 3rd, 19th and the 23rd April, one at Malltraeth Cob Pools on the 3rd May, and one at the Alaw Estuary on 14th May. In the second winter period, birds were reported from 25th Oct, with singles at 7 sites and 3 birds in the Aberffraw/Llyn Coron area from 18th Nov to 11th Dec.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

TROELLWR MAWR

(C) Widespread but scarce summer visitor. The breeding population has increased over the past ten years and is now mainly dependent on clearfell areas in forestry plantations. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding records were received as follows (they do not constitute a complete census):

GWENT: After a high in records in 2010 reports returned to usual levels with 16 records. Earliest report from Nine Wells, Wentwood, on 11th May. Wentwood held two pairs but reports were down on previous years. Cwmcarn, Ebbw Vale, held a minimum of three pairs on 2nd June; four birds were caught and ringed at this site, including a juvenile and a retrap from 2010. Four birds, including a female were recorded at Coed y Llanerch on 2nd June. Single birds was recorded at Nant Gwyddon (27th May and 22nd June) and Blaenavon (2nd July), two at Manmoel (28th June) and 3 at Broad Meend (6th June); **E. GLAMORGAN:** Fifteen reports with the first of a churring male at Darwonno forestry on 14th May. Singles were reported at Ystrad/Llwynypia on 19th May, Craig-y-Llyn on 29th June, Darren-y-Bannau and Mynydd Caerau, Maesteg on 3rd and 29th June, 2 at Coed Ruperra on 12th June and at Mynydd Caerau on 3rd July. Highest count and latest count was at Llanwonnno with 5 on 20th June and two 2 on 13th Aug; **GOWER:** One pair probably bred at Mynydd Dinas, two pairs at Pen Moel Grochlef and one pair at Pen Disgwyfya. There were 3 at Garnwen/Maesteg on 29th May and 3 males and a female near Pelenna Forest on 10th June, with singles at four other sites; **CARMARTHEN:** Only two records from Esgair-fwyog on 3rd June, and another from Glynsaer, Crychan Forest on 6th June; **CEREDIGION:** Reported at one site, Cross Inn forest with four churring males on 4th June and at least eight were seen on 11th June; **BRECON:** Four records. A male at Ystradfellte on 15th May, two at Castle Drake (Glasfynydd) on 6th June and singles churring at Carn-y-crochan Farm and Hepste Fechan (both Ystradfellte) on 30th July; **RADNOR:** Only one record, this was from a garden in Llandegley on 5th; **MEIRIONNYDD:** 4-5 birds were at the Gwaith Powdwr reserve near Penrhyndeudraeth in the breeding season; **CAERNARFON:** Four records; two churring at Cors Bodgynydd on 9th June, one here on 2nd and 16th June, and one at Gwydyr Forest on 18th June.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

GWENNOL DDU

(C) A widespread and plentiful summer visitor. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding was reported as follows: **GWENT:** One occupied nest at New Tredegar; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Fifteen pairs bred in Caerau, Maesteg area, 37 juvs present on 26th July. Breeding was possible or probable at Fairwater (Cardiff), Pontyclun, Rudry Village and Tonypany; **GOWER:** Bred at 8 sites, probably bred at one other site; **CEREDIGION:** Breeding numbers seem to be in slow decline with fewer breeding at Talybont than in previous years and breeding numbers at Aberarth lower than ever; **BRECON:** 3 pairs at Pennorth Chapel (making use of bat mitigation works), 3 pairs at Abergwesyn School, and one pair at Westfields (Talgarth). In mid-July, there were 15 birds screaming around Cusop Farm (Aberyscir), 9 around Pentrebach and 8 around two houses in Trallong. 14 nests from nine properties were recorded in Brecon Town. On several dates during the breeding season up to 20 individuals over Sennybridge and 18 over Defynnog on several dates during the breeding season. Two family groups left Felinfach in late-July, and similar groups left Llanwrthwl on 29th July; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Recently fledged young were noted at Tywyn on 13th July, and they also bred at Pennal, Rhiwbrydir, Tanygrisiau and Blaenau Ffestiniog; **CAERNARFON:** Early record of 2 birds on 8th May visiting a nest site at Dolgarrog. Breeding was also recorded at Llandudno Junction, at Henryd Road, Gyffin and at Porthmadog. There were young on the wing at Llanaelhaearn on 11th July.

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	19 th April	Peterstone Wentlooge	3 rd Oct	Abergavenny
E. GLAMORGAN	12 th April	Cosmeston CP	13 th Oct	Flat Holm
GOWER	10 th April	Kitchen Corner/Rhossili	12 th Aug	Morriston
CARMARTHEN	25 th April	Ferry-side	4 th Aug	Llandybie
PEMBROKE	1 st May	Govan's Head	31 st Aug	Haverfordwest
CEREDIGION	9 th April	Llanon		
BRECON	22 nd April	Bwlch, Talybont-on-Usk & Brecon	22 nd Oct	Beacons Reservoir
MEIRIONNYDD	6 th May	Dolgellau		
CAERNARFON	23 rd April	Llandudno Junction	31 st Oct	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	23 rd April	Cemlyn		
DENBIGH (*)	13 th April	RSPB Conwy	30 th Aug	RSPB Conwy

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

Large counts (100+) were **GWENT**: 100 were feeding over the A40 just east of Abergavenny on 9th July and 110 were in the Monnow valley two miles north of Monmouth on 10th July; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 100 over Penarth town centre on 29th April. There were 300 over Cardiff Bay on 12th May and 400 feeding low there in drizzle on 28th May, 100 on 8th July and 125 here on 4th Aug. 150 were over the R. Taff in Cardiff on 29th May. There were 100 at Cardiff – Lakeside north on 2nd July, and 100 at Cosmeston on 5th July; **GOWER**: c.120 at Eglwys Nunydd Res on 19th May with c.300 there on 25th May, c.250 over Margam Park on 29th May; **BRECON**: 100 on 2nd May at Llangorse and 100+ over Builth Town on 27th July; **CAERNARFON**: An exceptional feeding flock of 400-600 birds was over the coastal hills of Conwy Mountain, Foel Lus and Cefn Coch on 15th June.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

GLAS Y DORLAN

(C) Resident in lowland areas. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: 95 records from 37 locations (72% of the 2010 total). The only evidence of breeding came from ringers; an immature caught on the Afon Honddu, near Staunton, on 8th July and two first-year birds at Kentchurch, on the River Monnow, on 18th Oct. A long-dead female was found alongside the A40 in Monmouth on 13th April; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Despite 88 records from 30 locations there were no confirmed breeding records in 2011, but birds were observed at suitable sites in 12 locations during April to July inclusive. Although mainly from the south of the recording area, sites also included Llwyn-on Res feeder stream, and Afon Cynon - Tirfounder Fields; **GOWER**: Probably bred at R. Kenfig, Water St/Margam and Port Talbot Docks. 1-2 birds were reported from a further 25 locations, with 3 at Llanrhidian on 21st Sept; **CARMARTHEN**: Four pairs bred along the Tywi between Ro-Fawr and Llangadog, and single pairs bred near Llandovery and at Penclacwydd. A pair was seen along the Teifi at Llanybydder on 12th April; **PEMBROKE**: Numbers appeared to be low in 2011 with this species missing from many known breeding sites; **CEREDIGION**: There was only one record from the breeding season; a pair was present for most of the year on the Teifi near Llandysul. Seen more widely in many suitable areas outside of the

breeding season; **BRECON**: Few records and apparently missing from several usual strongholds. In July a bird was recorded carrying fish along the Usk at Brynich, suggesting an attempt at breeding. Two birds were involved in a territorial clash at Trallong on 26th Aug. Other breeding season records were of singles at Beiligwern (Cwm Treweryn) and Glangwryney. One returned to Llangorse from 27th Aug, remaining there into December; **MEIRIONNYDD**: The last few cold winters have hit the species hard and numbers seem lower. A pair was on Afon Glaslyn in the Pont Croesor area on 23rd May; **CAERNARFON**: One confirmed breeding record of an adult feeding a young bird at a garden pond at Abersoch on 26th Aug. Recorded at 7 locations outside of the breeding season; **ANGLESEY**: Recorded at 7 locations outside of the breeding season with possible breeding at Llyn Cefni. Individuals were seen at the Alaw Estuary on 28th June and Cemlyn on 1st July; **DENBIGH**: Regular records at RSPB Conwy in Jan – Feb and from Aug to Nov.

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

GWYBEDOG Y GWENYN

(A) A rare visitor to Wales. On WRP list.

GOWER: One flew over Marsh Farm, Wenffrwd on 14th June; **PEMBROKE**: Two flew south over Pen Anglas on 22nd April and a single was seen on Skomer on 14th June, the 3rd island record; **CEREDIGION**: Two were seen between Aberporth and Blaenporth on 23rd April and were still present early the next day for the lucky few who hoped that they would stay there overnight! There have been only two previous records, in 1978 and 1993.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

COPOG

(A) An uncommon but regular passage migrant to Wales.

GWENT: One was present at the Sluvad Treatment Works for Llandegfedd Reservoir from 25th to 26th May; **CARMARTHEN**: Two records, the first since 2007, probably relating to the same individual; Rhydywrach, Llanfallteg on 2nd Sept and at nearby Fforest Farm, Whitland from 4th – 8th Sept; **PEMBROKE**: Singles at St. David's Head/Trefeiddan on 7th-9th April, Ramsey 10th – 12th April, and St. David's 14th April and Skokholm 25th – 29th Aug; **CEREDIGION**: A single in a garden 1 mile from Aberystwyth on the Devil's Bridge road on 15th April, another near Devil's Bridge on 4th May. A single bird was at Morfa Bychan from 13th – 16th Nov; **RADNOR**: One at Whitton on 16th June; **CAERNARFON**: One was on Bardsey on 2nd - 4th April; **ANGLESEY**: One was along Malltraeth Cob and the edge of the saltmarsh on the 10th April and another near Llansadwrn on 15th-16th April.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

PENGAM

(A) An uncommon but regular passage migrant in Wales, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn.

GWENT: Two records, the first since 2008. A single bird was present on 10th and 11th Sept at Garnlydan Reservoir and another at Newport Wetlands Reserve Uskmouth from 15th to at least 18th Sept; **GOWER**: Singles at Oxwich Dunes on 12th April, at Mynydd Gellionnen on 25th-26th Sept and at Earleswood Golf Course on 4th Nov; **CARMARTHEN**: One at Penclacwydd from 11th to 17th Oct was the latest ever autumn

record for the area; **PEMBROKE**: Singles at Ramsey 4th – 13th Sept, Pencarnan on 30th Sept, St. David's Head on 13th Oct and St. Govan's on 6th Nov. On Skomer singles on 10th April and 1st, 4th, 7th, 15th, 25th & 28th Sept with two here on 2nd and 29th Sept then singles on 1st, 2nd, 14th & 15th Oct; **BRECON**: One from 10th – 12th September on the Gwent side of the border at Garnlydan Reservoir briefly ventured into the recording area on 11th; **CAERNARFON**: One was reported at Aberdaron on 19th April. All the other records were on Bardsey, with one from 28th Aug to 5th Sept, and another on 30th Sept. One was discovered at the north end of the island on 6th Oct and another from 7th to 16th Oct. One was found at Nant on 9th Oct remaining until 13th and on the 11th another bird was seen near Cristin, remaining to 16th; **ANGLESEY**: One along the access road to Llyn Coron on 1st Oct and one was at South Stack also on 1st Oct.

2010: ANGLESEY: One at Penmon Priory on the 17th May 2010.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

CNOCELL WERDD

(C) Once a common breeding resident throughout lowland Wales except on Anglesey. It now appears to be doing well in some eastern and southern counties but declining in most western counties, and Montgomery and Radnor. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: The number of records was down compared to 2010 (169 against over 200) which may reflect a fall in numbers after two successive hard winters. Almost 83% referred to single birds, though family groups of four or more birds were seen at Black Rock on 23rd June and near Osbaston on 2nd Oct. Breeding was under-recorded but was confirmed at Brynithel cemetery, where three young fledged and at Black Rock, where four juveniles were seen on 23rd June. A juvenile was seen in a Llangybi garden on 11th July. Three pairs were established in the Monnow valley within two miles of Osbaston and certainly bred there and it is likely that many of the 26 county records in April and May referred to breeding birds; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding was confirmed at Caerlan Farm, and nr Cefn-glas Farm, Craig yr Efail, and was reported at possible or probable at Llysnant, Mynydd Pen-y-Graig, Pontyclun, Cil Ely and Coed Ely. Birds were reported from 41 locations; **GOWER**: Bred at Mewslade, Cwm Dyffryn, Ynys Lee and Ynysmaerdy and probably bred at Giant's Grave, Crymlyn Bog, Crymlyn Burrows and Briton Ferry Woods. 1-4 birds were reported at another 40 localities; **CARMARTHEN**: Records were received from Pentre felin, Dinewfwr Ponds, Garn Goch, Llandybïe, Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park, Pembrey Forest and Ffos-las; **PEMBROKE**: One at Hayston near Johnston on 7th Feb was the only record received; **CEREDIGION**: Seen at Cwm Rheidiol Res. on 24th Jan, in a garden south of Llangeitho on 2nd Feb, one heard at Pontrhydfendigaid on 13th Feb, one at Llanddewi Brefi on 19th February and 14th March, two near Bedd Taliesin on 17th March, two at Llanddewi Brefi on 27th March, one in the Afon Berwyn valley on 28th March with one east of Cors Caron on the same date, one at Llanon on 6th May and one Plas Treflyn, Cors Caron on 15th Nov; **BRECON**: During Jan – Feb, reports came from fifteen locations, including Hendreladis (Ystradgynlais) where one fed at ant-hills. In line with a general retraction in breeding range in the west of the UK, there was a reduction in summer records. However, successful breeding included juveniles being seen or heard at Giedd Forest (two families), Llywel, Maesybeddau Wood and Cwm Dyrn (both Llanfihangel nant Bran), Llangattock, Llangammarch Wells and Llanwrthwl; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Recorded at two sites; **CAERNARFON**: Recorded at 12 sites with

breeding confirmed at Llanbedrog; **ANGLESEY**: Recorded at 7 sites, mainly in the south and east of the island.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF
(C) A common breeding resident in wooded parts of Wales but scarce on Anglesey and the Llŷn peninsula.

GWENT: 210 records from across the recording area. 17 pairs recorded; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 132 records from across the recording area but mainly the south. Breeding was confirmed at 7 locations and probable or possible at a further 5; **GOWER**: Bred at 10 sites and probably bred at another two; **CARMARTHEN**: There were records from 13 locations; **PEMBROKE**: Singles on Skomer on 22nd Sept and 15th Oct and on Ramsey 29th – 30th Sept and 1st Oct; **CEREDIGION**: A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 17 territories (17 in 2006); **BRECON**: Widespread although breeding recorded only at one site. Feather remains found on several Peregrine nest-ledges in the county; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at 3 sites; **CAERNARFON**: Breeding was recorded at 3 sites; **ANGLESEY**: 19 records from across the island. Breeding was confirmed at Cemaes, breeding in a Telegraph pole.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor* CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF
(B) A scarce and local breeding resident in all counties, principally distributed in the lowlands and along the main river valleys. Wales Red-listed.

GWENT: 13 records. Breeding was confirmed at Llanwenarth where four young fledged; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Singles recorded from 8 locations. There were no breeding records; **GOWER**: Singles were recorded at Alltwen Wood on 8th April, Pen-y-cae on 5th Nov and at Lower Lliw Res on 7th Nov; **CARMARTHEN**: Singles were recorded at Llandybïe, Dinelfwr Park on 12th April and Pentre felin on 23rd Oct; **PEMBROKE**: Records of single birds at Blackpool, Trecwn and Llandilo; **CEREDIGION**: Two pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir. One was at Nanteos and Cwm Clettwr NNR, and 2 at Dorglwyd; **BRECON**: One sighting; a single bird by the Wye at Alltmawr; **RADNOR**: Recorded at 5 sites in the breeding season; **MEIRIONNYDD**: A male was at a feeding station at Dyfi Junction on 23rd Jan and 18th March. One was at Maentwrog on 16th March, and one was drumming at Coed Cae Fali on 20th April. A male was at Glanllyn, Llyn Tegid, on 6th May. One was feeding from garden bird feeders for a week at Brithdir in mid July, and 2 were visiting a Penrhyndeudraeth garden on 16th Oct; **CAERNARFON**: Single birds at Dwygyfylchi and Bryn Bras.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

EURYN

(A) A scarce summer visitor, recorded in all counties and particularly in Pembroke. Most of the records fall in May and June. On WRP list.

CAERNARFON: One was trapped on Bardsey on 6th May and was present for two days afterwards.

ISABELLINE SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus*
(A) A vagrant, on BBRC list.

CIGYDD GWDW

PEMBROKE: First winter of the race *L. i. isabellinus* at Porthclais 28th Oct - 7th Nov.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

CIGYDD CEFNGOCH

(A) A scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn chiefly to coastal areas, formerly a widespread breeding species in small numbers. On WRP list.

PEMBROKE: Female on Skomer on 16th - 18th Oct; **DENBIGH:** One at RSPB Conwy on 4th June.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*

CIGYDD GLAS

(A) A vagrant, on BBRC list.

The only record came from **PEMBROKE** with a first summer bird at St Justinians 4th - 9th July

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

CIGYDD MAWR

(A) A scarce but annual winter visitor, occasionally recorded on passage.

GWENT: During the first winter period two birds were recorded at different locations in Wentwood, at Little Oak from 3rd Feb to at least 25th March and at Five Paths from 6th until at least 17th March. During the second winter period single birds were noted at Beacon Hill, Trellech on 22nd Nov and at Little Oak, Wentwood, on 31st Dec; **E. GLAMORGAN:** There was one in the Perthcelyn/Llanwonno area in Jan and Feb and until 4th March, one at Twyn Brynbychan on 8th Jan, and one at Bwlch-y-Lladron from 6th to 27th March. A well-watched bird was in clearfell in the Garwnant forestry area from 24th Oct to 4th Dec. Another at Mynydd Margam from 27th Nov to 4th Dec occasionally strayed into East Glamorgan; **GOWER:** Sightings from widespread localities, involving 4-5 birds. Singles at Mynydd Nant-y-bar on 19th Feb and 20th March, at Mynydd Margam W on 8th - 9th and 13th March, at Mynydd Penhydd on 12th - 13th March, at Drysiog on 13th March and at Gwaun Blaencorwg on 17th March. In the autumn, at Mynydd Margam E on 27th - 28th Nov with another sighting further west on Mynydd Margam on 4th Dec, presumed to be the same; **CARMARTHEN:** The only record was of one at Brechfa on 28th Jan; **PEMBROKE:** One was at Ty Rhyg on 3rd - 26th March and again 26th Oct - 28th Dec. A second bird was at Pantmaenog Forest from 4th March and presumably returning there 22nd Oct until the end of the year; **CEREDIGION:** In the first winter period there was one at Cwmystwyth on 1st Jan and 3rd and 17th Feb, with one at Cross Inn forest on many dates from 16th Jan to 19th March. There was one near Soar y Mynydd on 22nd March. Presumably the same birds returned to both Cwmystwyth and Cross Inn in the second winter period with records from the former location from 30th Oct to 6th Nov and at the latter location on 10th Nov; **BRECON:** Singles were reported from Mynydd Illtyd on 1st, 2nd, and 22nd, Jan and 19th Nov and 19th Dec. Also recorded from Lower Neuadd Reservoir on 4th March and 27th Oct. One was in upper Cwm Dyfnant, north Epynt on 26th February and south of Llanwrthwl on 30th Oct; **RADNOR:** Recorded at Ednol Hill on 11th Dec and near Bleddfa on 25th Dec; **MEIRIONNYDD:** There was one at Trum y Sarn, South Berwyn,

on 20th Jan and possibly the same bird was at Rhanneg, Llandderfel on 1st Feb. There were 2 birds together at Bwlch y Groes, Llanydawddwy, on 7th April, and one still here on the 14th; **CAERNARFON**: One was reported at Llanbedr-y-cennin on 19th Feb.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*

CIGYDD PENGGOCH

(A) *Scarce passage migrant, on WRP list.*

GOWER: A first-summer male at Llangennith Moors on 8th, 10th and 16th April, and an adult male near Cartersford Bridge on 10th-12th May; **PEMBROKE**: 3 records; a male at Abereiddy on 23rd April, a female at Whitesands Bay 25th -26th April and another male at Mullock Bridge 15th-19th May; **CEREDIGION**: A stunning female was at Ynyslas from 16th to 23rd April, the first record for the county; **CAERNARFON**: A first-summer female was trapped on Bardsey on 20th May, remaining until the 24th.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

PIODEN

(D) *An abundant and widespread resident; numbers still increasing.*

Flocks of 30 or more were: **GWENT**: The largest group reported was one of 35 at St James Forestry on 30th Jan; **GOWER**: 71 at an Afan estuary roost on 7th Jan and 37 at a Llansamlet pre-roost on 11th Jan; **PEMBROKE**: A roost of 30 in North Valley Skomer on 28th Sept.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

SGRECH Y COED

(D) *Widespread resident, common in most deciduous woodland areas.*

Counts of 10 or more were: **GWENT**: 16 at Lodge Wood, Caerleon; 11 in Wentwood and 14 between Merchants Hill and Blaenavon cemetery; **E. GLAMORGAN**: The largest autumnal gatherings were reported from the Llynfi Valley where 15 were observed in Cwmdru, Maesteg on 25th Oct. On the same date, 10 were seen on Garth Hill, Maesteg.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

BRAN GOESGOCH

(C) *A resident in small numbers, mainly on cliff coasts of the western seaboard. Wales Amber-listed.*

E. GLAMORGAN: Nesting activity at the traditional site was not reported. However an ad and a juv flew over by the site on 15th Oct. The max seen together was 5; **GOWER**: In the Mewslade area, 3 pairs fledged one, two and four young. At Pennard, up to 4 birds seen but no breeding behaviour observed. The largest flock was 14 at Paviland on 27th June; **PEMBROKE**: Large flocks reported from Martin's Haven max 30+ on 27th Aug, ten on both Dale Airfield on 8th Sept and at Stackpole Head on 3rd July, and 14 Penarthur Farm, St.David's on 28th July the last site being well inland from the coast. Confirmed breeding on Ramsey which had eight territorial pairs, seven of which bred. From those seven pairs, 22 young were fledged giving a productivity of 3.14 per pair, the highest on record and the first time it has been over 3.0. On Skomer four territories, two pairs nested & fledged four young. County Breeding Summary:

No. pairs occupying territories	No. pairs attempting to breed	No. nests thought to have eggs	No. nests thought to have young	Min. no. of young fledged per site
65	59	58	57	126
Mean no. young fledged per confirmed successful nest/pair				2.21
Mean no. young fledged per confirmed territory-holding pair				1.94

Nesting data (*) for the mid and north Wales counties is summarized below. (Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project).

Vice-county	Anglesey	Caernarfon	Denbigh	Meirionnydd	Montgomery	Ceredigion	Total for Mid + N Wales
Total Nests in 2011:	37-41	88-96	1-2	19-20	0	24-26	169-185
Total Broods ringed in 2011:	19	40	0	9	0	11	79
Total Young ringed in 2011:	59	118	0	27	0	41	245
Mean no Young/brood ringed:	3.1	3.0	N/A	3.0	N/A	3.7	3.1

(*) Number of Nests: Range (Min = Confirmed + Probable) - (Max = Confirmed, Probable + Possible) .

CEREDIGION: The second severe winter in a row does not seem to have had a major impact on the county's Chough population. It is worth noting the positive benefit of conservation initiatives too, in that seven pairs bred in purpose built nest-boxes fledging a total of 22 young between them. At the last remaining inland site, where grazing levels have been maintained specifically to favour the Choughs, a pair successfully reared 4 chicks. Although the breeding population has held up well to 2 cold winters the size of the non-breeding population is a growing concern with few flocks of any size reported. The largest flock was at Llanon with 15 on 16th Oct;

ANGLESEY: In 2011, the oldest known Anglesey nesting chough was 17 years old, ringed at a site near Rhoscolyn in 1994, and nesting at the same South Stack site since 1997, raising a total of 52 young.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

JAC-Y-DO

(C) An abundant and widespread resident. Increasing.

Counts of 300 or more were: **GWENT**: Several hundred flew to roost over Risca on 23rd Jan and 400 roosted at Llantarnam on 24th Jan. Over 400 roosted at Brynmawr and 450 gathered at dusk at Bryn Bach Park on 20th Nov and up to 1,000 roosted in Oct, Nov and Dec in western Newport; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 300 were observed going to roost at Wildmill on 1st Jan. 300 were observed at Lavernock on 2nd Nov; **GOWER**: Regular pre-roost flocks of 700+ in both winter and summer from Port Talbot Docks, Sandfields Estate, Briton Ferry and Baglan, peaking at c.1,000 over Baglan on 14th Nov and up to 1,500 over Briton Ferry/Baglan in both winter periods. Further west, max 1,200+ over Upper West Cross on 25th Nov; **CARMARTHEN**: 1,200 in Sept at Penclacwydd falling to 1,100 in Oct and 800 in Nov before increasing to 1,800 in Dec; **PEMBROKE**: 500 at Lydstep on 6th Aug, 350 at Bosherton on 6th Nov and 240 on Skomer on 28th Oct; **BRECON**: 300 at Libanus in early Feb and a feeding flock of 300 on maize stubble at Gwernybutler Farm in Nov; **CAERNARFON**: 300 at Conwy on 3rd March and c.300 going to roost at Deganwy on 13th March.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

YDFRAN

(C) A plentiful and widespread resident, breeding mainly below 305m above sea level.

GWENT: Large flocks were noted throughout the year, mostly associated with roosts. Several hundred flew to roost over Risca on 23rd Jan; 400 roosted at Llantarnam on 24th Jan, with over 400 at Brynmawr; 450 at Bryn Bach Park on 20th Nov and up to 1,000 roosted in Oct, Nov and Dec in western Newport. One was noted collecting hair off the back of a horse at St James Forestry on 25th April but no rookeries reported; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 74 nests reported in 6 rookeries; **GOWER**: A total of 640 nests at 35 rookeries, a 4.5% decrease compared to 2010. The largest, at Lagadranta Farm, held 67 nests; **CARMARTHEN**: At least 190 nests in 7 Rookeries; **BRECON**: 273 nests in 11 rookeries; **MEIRIONNYDD**: There were 20 occupied nests at Capel Rug, 21 occupied nests at Druid, 37 nests at Cynwyd, and 15 nests at Frongoch. They also bred at Llwyngwrl and Pennal. There was a count of 375 birds at Druid in tetrad SJ04L on 8th April.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

BRAN DYDDYN

(C) An abundant resident and partial migrant throughout Wales. Often regarded as the principal avian pest species in rural areas.

Counts of 100 or more were: **GWENT**: In the autumn 129 were counted on 23rd Oct in fields near Osbaston, after a maize crop was harvested, while 180 gathered on the Ynysfyrdd golf course in a pre-roost flock on 18th Dec; **GOWER**: 107 at Wernffrwd on 4th Jan. There were 161 at Blackpill in Jan, 196 in July, 149 in Aug, 101 in Sept, 175 in Oct and 121 in Dec; **CARMARTHEN**: 237 feeding on the mudflats at Laugharne on 4th Jan; **BRECON**: Late-year flocks included 120 on common-land near Cwmowen/Blaenbwch Farm on 2nd Dec; **CAERNARFON**: 120 at Foryd on 2nd Sept; **ANGLESEY**: There were 103 on Aberlenniog shore on 8th Nov; **DENBIGH**: 229 at the Conwy estuary roost on 15th Nov.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

BRAN LWYD

(A) An irregular wanderer to Wales, mainly in winter and most frequent to coastal areas. Wales Amber-listed.

E. GLAMORGAN: One at Sker/Pink Bay area on 5th May, the first for area since the split of this species from Carrion Crow; **PEMBROKE:** Singles in April at Cemaes Head on 17th, at St. David's Head on 24th, and at Marloes Mere on the 25th. In Dec at Dowrog on 17th and St. David's Head on 21st (possibly the same bird); **CAERNARFON:** A single bird was seen on Bardsey on 6th March, two on the 16th, with one on 17th, 21st and 24th. In April, there were six records of singletons, with others on 2nd and 19th May. One was seen on 1st Nov, with another on 7th; **ANGLESEY:** Singles were at Rhosneigr on 3rd Jan, Hen Borth on 22nd Jan, Holyhead on 2nd Feb, on The Range on 28th March, 31st May, 8th Aug and 5th Sept. Singles also seen at South Stack on 6th and 17th April, and 2nd and 25th May. One flew in from the sea at Cemlyn on 6th May, and singles were at Cemlyn on 29th Aug and at Carmel Head on 16th Oct; **DENBIGH:** One flew E at RSPB Conwy on 15th May.

Carrion Crow/Hooded Crow hybrid

CAERNARFON: One at Caernarfon Airport on 8th Jan and between the Llyfni and Selont estuaries on 9th April; **ANGLESEY:** One was seen at South Stack on the 12th Feb, while an adult and an immature bird were also seen there on 4th July.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

CIGFRAN

(C) Resident: distributed throughout the whole of Wales. Numbers are very high in many of the uplands and coastal-cliff areas.

GWENT: 50 counted in flight over the River Ebbw between Cwm and Aberbeeg on 21st July and 51 attending a pony carcass on Hatterall Hill on 25th Aug. Breeding was confirmed at 7 sites and probable at another two; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Breeding was confirmed at 9 nine sites and possible at a further 2. Max. counts from the Blaencannaid roost, **E. GLAMORGAN** were:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
93	64	120	143	256	276	372	312	208	285	78	251

GOWER: Bred at 8 sites and probably bred at another seven. The highest counts were 30 at Mynydd Blaenafan/Bwlch ar Afan on 28th Feb and 22 over Baglan Woods on 16th Oct; **CARMARTHEN:** Breeding confirmed at 4 sites; **PEMBROKE:** A pair on Grassholm and three pairs on Ramsey, each fledging two young. Three pairs on Skomer produced 6 young. The largest count received was of 68 on Skomer on 19th Sept; **CEREDIGION:** 26 at Pontrhydfendigaid on 24th July; **BRECON:** The warm and dry spring maximised breeding success for this early breeder. By mid-April, well-grown chicks were in nests at Derlwyn Isaf (Twrch), Capel Horeb, both Esgair and Craig Irfon, Garth Bank, Bronffynnon, Cefnhirwaun, Tarren yr Escob and Danyderi Farm (Scethrog). Fledged juveniles emerged from all these sites, with additional family parties seen at Belfont, Battle Hill, Soar, and on the northern ridge of the Black Mountains (2). Nant Car woods attracted 19 together on 24th July, and family parties totalling 29 birds flew south in an hour at dusk off the Epynt above Merthyr Cynog two

days later. Early in the year, 10 fed on a sheep carcass at Pantyllyn (Upper Chapel) in late-January, and 27 presumed unpaired immatures were at Cwmllythyn (Llanfihangel nant Bran) on 14th February. In October/November, 10 -20 came to sheep carcasses at Trallong, Battle Hill and Cynala; **CAERNARFON**: A successful breeding attempt was made on Bardsey for the first time since 2005, with three young fledged. The peak count here was a flock of 52 birds on 26th Sept and 4th Oct; **ANGLESEY**: There were 200+ at Malltraeth on 2nd Jan and 43 at Carmel Head on 5th March. 2 nests at Bwthyn Penreos, Cemlyn, with 4 juveniles seen near Hen Blas in July.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

DRYW EURBEN

(C) An abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Increasing. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: Breeding recorded at 4 sites; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding was confirmed at two sites with evidence of possible breeding recorded at a further 22, max count of 30 at Garn Wen (Maesteg) on 3rd Aug. Single birds were on Flat Holm on 18th Jan and 25th Aug; **GOWER**: Bred at Neath Town and Ynys Lee; **CARMARTHEN**: There were 7 singing males at Taliaris Wood on 18th May, with breeding season records from a further five sites; **PEMBROKE**: Passage noted on Ramsey from August to 5th Nov, with up to 40 birds present on the island; **CEREDIGION**: A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 27 territories (46 in 2006); **BRECON**: Fewer reports received, especially in the first winter period. Five singing males were located in Glasfynydd Forest (west) on 6th May, and 8 in Hay Forest. Up to 3 singing males/territories were identified at many other sites; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Breeding records were received from Penllyn Marsh, Mynydd Rugog, Llanuwchllyn forestry, and the Lower Dysynni; **CAERNARFON**: On Bardsey the maximum monthly count was 53 in Oct; **ANGLESEY**: At South Stack a maximum of 50+ on 20th Oct.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

(B) A scarce breeding resident and uncommon passage migrant. Wales Amber-listed.

Table below summarises the monthly occurrence for each county.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT:					1	1						1
E. GLAMORGAN		2	2						1		3	
GOWER											2	
CARMARTHEN												1
PEMBROKE	3	1	1							2	3	
BRECON											1	
RADNOR												
MEIRIONNYDD										1		
CAERNARFON						1				1		2
Bardsey		1	1									
ANGLESEY		1	1							1		
DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy	1										1	

GWENT: A male, which was obviously holding territory, was seen and heard on several dates from 8th May to 19th June at Graig Syfyrdin, near Grosmont; **MONTGOMERY:** One singing male recorded at the top of the lake on the path to the Centenary Hide at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy all season. No birds heard at the other sites occupied over the last few years.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

TITW TOMOS LAS

(C) *An abundant resident species, most numerous in deciduous woodland but not restricted to this preferred habitat, especially in winter when it is more numerous. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands.*

GWENT: At Penallt in the first winter period, 96 birds were caught and ringed, including 23 re-traps, during early Jan. Breeding records from 106 nests, of which 98 were in nest boxes. 406 eggs laid, producing 295 fledged young (73% success rate) 57 occupied boxes at Brynithel; at Hafodyrynys the fledging success rate was 70%, with 80 eggs resulting in 56 fledglings from nine boxes. At Penallt, 26 nest boxes were occupied, but nestling mortality was high. In 'natural' nests at Brynithel and Hafodyrynys, productivity appeared low and some chicks starved to death. The lower than expected numbers reported by observers in the second half-year seem to suggest a poor breeding season; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Breeding was confirmed at 45 locations throughout the recording area. At Coed-y-Bedw 39 nest boxes were used, resulting in 276 successfully fledged young. Post-breeding, 28 were recorded whilst undertaking a transect across Parc Slip on 15th Sept, whilst a BTO Garden Bird count in Shwt peaked at 30 in Dec; **GOWER:** Bred at 56 sites. At Cwm Clydach Study Area, 73 pairs to egg stage, of which 68 pairs fledged 481 young, 6.6 per box. The highest count was 46 at a Gorseinon garden feeding centre; **CARMARTHEN:** Thirty-five pairs bred in nest boxes at Abbey Woods, Whitland; **CEREDIGION:** There were 53 on the grass at St Michael's church, Aberystwyth on 1st Jan. A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 113 territories (115 in 2006); **BRECON:** A good breeding season was suggested by some respectable flocks in the autumn. A flock of 25 were by the Usk at Llanhamlach on 31st October, 61 were mist-netted and ringed in three hours in a Pennorth garden on 20th November, and 25-30 came to Sennybridge and Brecon (2) gardens late in the year; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Breeding records were received from 20 sites; **CAERNARFON:** Only 3 pairs bred in nestboxes at Coedydd Aber, compared to 8 pairs in 2010. There were 15 at Bangor Brewery Fields on 17th and 23rd Jan. A single pair nested on Bardsey and fledged a minimum of six young. This is only the second time that this species has been recorded nesting on the island; **ANGLESEY:** Confirmed breeding at Cemlyn, with good numbers of juvenile birds seen during June.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

TITW MAWR

(C) *A widespread and numerous species throughout Wales up to approximately 500m above sea level. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands.*

GWENT: A total of 45 nests reported, 32 of which were in nest boxes. In boxes at Brynithel eleven pairs laid 73 eggs and fledged 51 chicks (a fledging success rate of 67%). Nearby at Hafodyrynys six pairs in nest boxes laid 42 eggs but fledged only 24 young (a fledging success rate of 57%). The highest count was of 44 in Wentwood on 6th Dec; **E.**

GLAMORGAN: Only twenty-eight confirmed and six probable breeding locations. At Coed-y-Bedw forty-four nestboxes were used, resulting in 287 successfully fledged young; **GOWER:** At Cwm Clydach Study Area, 13 pairs to egg stage, of which 11 pairs fledged 78 young, 6.0 young per box. Breeding was recorded at 31 other sites; **CARMARTHEN:** Seven pairs bred in nest boxes at Abbey Woods, Whitland and breeding was confirmed at Rhandirmwyn and Llyn Llech Owain; **CEREDIGION:** A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 74 territories (89 in 2006); **BRECON:** First egg date in boxes at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl was 20th April; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Breeding records were received from 12 sites; **CAERNARFON:** Only 8 pairs bred in nestboxes at Coedydd Aber, compared to 15 pairs in 2010; **ANGLESEY:** Present throughout the island. 3 pairs probably bred at Cemlyn, with juveniles seen in June.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

TITW PENDDU

(C) A widespread and fairly common resident. Most numerous in conifer woodlands. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: Breeding records involved adults feeding young or sightings of fledged young at 10 sites. 16 males were singing at Wentwood on 8th March. Later in the year there was a staggering count of 85 birds at Wentwood on 6th Dec; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Breeding reports from 10 locations with breeding suspected at a further seven locations. Max count of 25 at Garwnant on 10th Dec; **GOWER:** Bred at 12 sites. There were c.60 on Sam Helen N amongst a large mixed species flock on 22nd Aug; **CEREDIGION:** A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 40 territories (39 in 2006); **BRECON:** Family parties were widespread from the end of May, with juveniles seen at many sites. 24 recorded at Bryn Mawr forestry during an Atlas visit in Nov; **MEIRIONNYDD:** 23 were noted in the Llangower area in an hour on 8th Feb. They bred at 16 sites;

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus*

TITW'R HELYG

(C) A thinly distributed resident, most frequent in south and east Wales and absent from most of north-west Wales. Declining across its range. Wales Red-listed.

GWENT: There were 10 records, the same as in 2010. Two were seen at Torfaen in January and a single bird was at Llanyrafon. February produced only one record, of a bird at Aberbargoed, but there were two sightings in March, of one in the Little Oak area of Wentwood on 1st and then two more in Wentwood, at Cadira Beeches, on 23rd. One was seen at Wentwood on 22nd June. Single birds seen at Hafod Farm, Brynmawr, on 14th and again on 28th Aug. Two birds at Usk on 1st Sept and one at Nine Wells, Wentwood on 13th Nov; **E. GLAMORGAN:** There were no breeding reports submitted but males were singing at Nelson and Parc Penallta on 27th March and on the same date a pair was seen on the Hirwaun Industrial Estate. There was one at Penmoelallt on 10th April and pairs were seen in suitable breeding habitat in Llwyn-on (total 4 birds at three locations around the reservoir) and Garwnant in July. One was at the Van (Caerphilly) on 6th Jan. One was trapped and ringed at Kenfig NNR on 14th Aug with further reports from here on 23rd Oct and 19th Nov. One was seen on Rudry Common on 9th Sept with another at Edwardsville on 11th Dec; **GOWER:** For the second consecutive year, this species was not recorded;

CARMARTHEN: Records were received from sixteen locations. Two regularly visited peanut feeders in a garden at Capel Seion; **PEMBROKE:** Recorded at Dowrog, Glynæron, Llandilo. Llangoffan Fen, Llys-y-Fran, Cych, Rosebush, Ty Rhyg, Teifi Marshes and Wern Farm; **CEREDIGION:** Seen at Cors Caron in January and then on numerous dates throughout the year and breeding proved with occasional birds also at Plas Treflyn. Seen at Denmark farm in March and April, Blaen Myherin in April, Cross Inn in July, Longwood Bettws Bledrws in October, near Llanfair Clydogau, Hafod, Llangybi and Comins Capel Betws in November; **BRECON:** In January, 1-2 were in wet woodland at Blaenau Isaf Farm, Beilgwynn and Blaenbrynich. Pairs were near Cantref Reservoir on 24th February and in Cwm Dyfnant on 26th, with one at the latter site again on 25th April. Between March and August, birds were in suitable breeding habitat at: Belfont/Castle Drake, Gelliwyb and Pont ar Wysg (2) (all Glasfynydd Forest), Halfway Forest, Yr Allt (Sennybridge), Llaneglwys Forest and in Talybont Forest below Tor y Foel. In September, at least one bird was at Pont ar Wysg, and in December, 2 were in forestry in Mynydd Wysg (east) nearby; **MEIRIONNYDD:** An excellent record of one calling in Corwen Forest on 20th and 26th Oct; **ANGLESEY:** One was reported from the Fisherman's car park at Llyn Coron on 27th Nov.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris*

TITW'R WERN

(C) A resident species, strongly sedentary, widespread but patchily distributed in the eastern half of Wales and in Pembroke. Scarce or absent in other western and northern areas. Declining across its range. Wales Red-listed.

GWENT: There were 50 records. There was one record of three birds together, possibly a family party, on Ysgyryd Fawr on 4th June. No confirmed breeding records or singing males, though breeding season sightings, apart from the one already mentioned, came from Cwmsyfiog, Nine Wells (near Tintern), Lodge Wood at Caerleon, Wern-y-Cwm, Llanover, Penperlleni and Lower Minnetts Wood; **E. GLAMORGAN:** There were no breeding reports this year. A male was heard singing in Beddau on 20th Feb. Three were reported from Cwm Cadlan on 2nd May, with another at Llanilid on 4th May. Two were at Parc Slip on 1st July. Outside the breeding season, there was one at Forest Farm/Glamorgan Canal on 5th Jan, 2 at Parc Slip NR on 16th Jan and 1 there on 18th visiting a feeder, and 1 at Bwlch-y-Cwm on 27th Jan. The only report in the second winter period was from Cwmfelin, Maesteg on 15th Nov; **GOWER:** Bred at Cwm Maelog and present at 11 other sites in the breeding season. Outside the breeding season, 1-2 birds were recorded at 7 sites; **CARMARTHEN:** Records were received from ten widely scattered locations; **PEMBROKE:** 7 territories between Cilgerran and Llechryd; **CEREDIGION:** Records during the breeding season came from near Coed Dolgoed, Longwood Bettws Bledrws (two pairs), Cross Inn forest, Lanerchaeron and near Ystrad Flur; **BRECON:** Reported from twenty-five sites during the winter periods, and rather surprisingly, only five of these were at garden feeders. At dusk on 2nd March, one went to roost in a broken branch in Ty Mawr Wood, Llangasty. There were no confirmed breeding reports but three territories were identified in both Hay Forest and along the Taff Trail through Talybont Forest. Single pairs were at Halfway, Trecastle, Nantmadog, Panscallog, Maescar, Felinfach, Pwll yr Wrach, Priory Groves, Ty Mawr and on the Myarth; **MEIRIONNYDD:** No records received; **CAERNARFON:** There was a family party at Coed Dolgarrog on 8th May, at the same site as in 2010, and one at Dolgarrog on 29th Dec. Elsewhere, there were singles at Llanberis on 22nd April and 29th July and one at Betws y Coed on 22nd May;

ANGLESEY: One was at Penrhos CP from 1st Jan to 10th March; **DENBIGH:** One at RSPB Conwy on 30th Jan.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus*

TITW BARFOG

(A) Breeds at Newport Wetlands; otherwise a rare autumn and winter visitor to reedbed areas. On WRP list for counties other than Gwent. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: Numbers seem to be holding up well at Newport Wetlands. After just one sighting in Jan, none in Feb and only one again in March, six were seen on 2nd April and ten on 23rd April. Five pairs bred, though none were seen in May and only one to three on a few occasions in June, though these sightings included a male and two juveniles on 6th June. Eight seen on 12th July included three juveniles. In Aug, six were seen on 25th; and in Sept, eight on 18th and, the highest number seen during the whole year, 16 on 24th Sept. On 13th Oct, there were 10, including four juveniles, then 15 on the 14th and on 16th Oct, eight birds.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

EHEDYDD Y COED

(A) Formerly resident, now mainly a passage migrant and winter visitor. On WRP list.

GWENT: Breeding was again recorded from a site in the east of the county. A nest with eggs was found on 25th April and these had hatched by 5th May. Sadly on 8th May the nest was found to have failed. A second nest, with five chicks, was found nearby on 5th June; three chicks fledged. An additional male bird was noted nearby in the same area on 28th April and again on 19th and 29th May. Breeding was strongly suspected as a juvenile was seen on 23rd June which was considered to be approximately a week younger than those of the chicks from the first nest. A single bird was at Dingestow on the unusual date of 19th Aug. Birds were seen along the coast at NWR Uskmouth on 1st Oct and at Peterstone on 18th Oct; **E. GLAMORGAN:** One was found at Mynydd Brombil on 20th Oct; **GOWER:** Two at Pilton Green on 30th Nov; **CAERNARFON:** There was one on the Great Orme on 19th April.

2010: GWENT: A single bird heard in song on 20th April 2010 at the site in the east of the county where breeding was recorded in 2006.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

EHEDYDD

(C) A widespread but declining breeding species; abundant passage migrant in autumn and winter. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding records were; **GWENT:** One nest was found, on Ysgyryd Fawr on 15th April, when it contained four eggs; **E. GLAMORGAN:** There were just two confirmed breeding reports and sixteen reports of singing birds; **GOWER:** Bred at Port Talbot harbour and probably bred at another 4 sites; **CARMARTHEN:** Records of singing males; 24 at Ffos-las on both 29th March and 16th May, 10+ at Pâl y Cwrt on 15th March, 2 at Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park on 18th, 1 in the Crychan Forest on 28th April, 10 at Garn Goch on 3rd May, c20 on Mynydd Llanllwni on 22nd June; **PEMBROKE:** 13 territories on Skomer; **CEREDIGION:** There was an estimated 60 pairs between Cwm Brefi and Cwm Carfan on 11th May; **BRECON:** Counts of singing males included 18 on Maesmerddyn (Llanfihangel nant bran) on 12th April, 44 on

Mynydd Llangatwg on 28th April, 12 on the east part of Mynydd Illtyd on 6th May. On 7th May, 4 singing males were present on 80% of Bronffynnon, compared to 17 males in song over the whole area in 2004; **MEIRIONNYDD**: 7 singing males were noted in an hour in the Mynydd Maentwrog/Graig Wen area on 7th May, with 9 singing males at Foel Cynfal, in 2 hours, on the same date, and 12 territories here on 19th June; **CAERNARFON**: Three pairs established territories on Bardsey, and two additional males sang. At least six young were fledged. This is the best showing since 2005 and the most fledged young recorded since the recolonisation in 2003.

Large counts (100+): **GWENT**: At Peterstone 100 on 15th Sept, 104 on 12th Oct and 182 on 15th Oct; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 212 at Cwm Nash on 1st Oct, and 100 at Lavernock Pt on 14th Oct; **GOWER**: c.110 at Paviland on 2nd Jan, c.220 at Paviland Farm on 30th Oct, 130 between Rhossili and Mewslade on 2nd Nov and 150 at Paviland on 2nd and 13th Nov; **PEMBROKE**: 300 at Martin's Haven on 23rd Jan, 200 on Dale Air Field on 1st Jan, 180 on 9th Jan and 200 on 23rd Oct and 150 at Martins Haven on 6th Nov. On Skomer, max autumn counts were 480 on 20th Oct and 140 on 5th Nov; **CEREDIGION**: 100 at Morfa Mawr on 24th Sept and 100 at Llanon on 17th Oct; **CAERNARFON**: On Bardsey, autumn passage peaked at 136 on 13th Oct, and 101 on 28th; **ANGLESEY**: 140 were at Carmel Head on the 16th Oct with 100 there on 20th Oct, and 110 at Cemlyn on 27th Oct.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris*
(A) Rare visitor, on WRP list.

EHEDYDD Y TRAETH

2010: PEMBROKE: Additional record for 2010, one on Skomer on 24th Oct.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

(C) Locally common breeding visitor, most numerous in eastern counties, increasing. Passage migrant in spring and autumn. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding records were **GWENT**: On the River Usk three colonies were noted near Llanfihangel Gobion on 4th May. Elsewhere on the River Usk, two colonies were established at Llanbadoc by 11th April, while two colonies were reported at Abergavenny. The largest colony on the River Usk appears to have been at Llanwenarth with 230 nest holes noted on 6th July. On the River Rhymney, occupied nests were noted at Aberbargoed on 24th April and 7th May and at Machen a small colony bred in drainage holes. On the River Monnow, 40 nests were active just downstream of Great Goytre, with birds still present at this colony on 7th July. At Liangua, there were 20 nest holes and birds were still present on 7th July. A small colony of about four pairs was north of Osbaston and near Monnow Bridge, in Monmouth, three pairs bred in drainage holes; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding was confirmed at R.Ely – Peterston/Pendoylan, Parc Taf Bargoed, Ogmere Est, Bute East Dock, and Bridgend, and probable or possible at Porth, and Trehafod; **GOWER**: A total of 823-829 nests, the highest figure recorded since the 2006 season and a large increase on the 581-586 nests recorded in 2010. Of this total, 622 were on the R. Loughor above Pontarddulais, c.70 in the new purpose-built artificial bank on the R. Afan at Port Talbot harbour and 54 on the R. Tawe ar Morriston (Ynysforgan), with breeding also recorded on the Clydach, Neath, Dulais and Melincwrt Brook;

CARMARTHEN: A sample count on 12th June of the number of birds nesting on the Tywi between Abergwili and Halfway produced c90 nest burrows at Abergwili, c230 at White Mill and c240 at Halfway; **PEMBROKE:** 100 nest holes at Pantgwyn; **CEREDIGION:** Breeding records included 40 active holes at Cribyn on 19th May, a few pairs nested at Aberaeron, 20 active holes at Abercoed on 5th June and a colony between Pant pool and Abercarfan. The significant colony in the Rheidol valley was not surveyed; **BRECON:** 50 apparently occupied nests on the Usk at Nantyffin (Glanusk Park), 8-10 in Abergwesyn and 3 in Cwm Car (Epynt). Up to 8 nest-holes along the Senni at Defynnog was in a bank not occupied for nine years. The breeding season was not very productive with some inundation of nests following wet weather; **MEIRIONNYDD:** About 120 birds were around the colony on the Lower Dysynni on 20th May. Birds were seen entering nests at Pont Mallwyd on 30th June (no count), and there were 4 nest holes in the river bank at Pont Rhyd y fen, Afon Tryweryn, on 3rd July; **CAERNARFON:** Colony of c.10 nests at Trefollwyn Fawr and 10+ nest holes at Penychain. Young were ready to fledge from a colony at Nefyn on 19th June and 10 were entering nest holes on Afon Conwy near Llanrwst on 11th July. There were also a number of small colonies around the Morfa Nefyn headland, with at least 80 nest holes in total; **ANGLESEY:** There were 2 small colonies of 3-5 burrows each at Cemlyn. c20 holes, at Aberlenniog beach. 6 were at the nest site near Pentre Berw on the 19th April. 30 active holes were counted on the 31st May at the Trewan Common Dunes, Rhosneigr.

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	13 th March	Peterstone Wentlooge	10 th Oct	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	10 th March	Cardiff Bay	1 st Nov	Mynydd Bach, Maesteg
GOWER	20 th March	Salthouse Pill	27 th Sept	Swansea Vale
CARMARTHEN	12 th March	Pendclacwydd		
PEMBROKE	27 th Feb	Fishguard	9 th Sept	Pembroke Castle
CEREDIGION	12 th March	RSPB Ynys-hir	21 st Sept	Cors Caron
BRECON	14 th March	Llangorse	29 th Aug	Brechfa Pool
RADNOR	11 th March	Llowes	16 th Sept	Glasbury
MEIRIONNYDD	3 rd April	Afon Tryweryn, Bala		
CAERNARFON	12 th March	Bardsey	15 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	13 th March	Cemlyn	28 th Sept	South Stack
DENBIGH (*)	12 th March	RSPB Conwy	24 th Sept	RSPB Conwy

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

Large passage counts (100+) were **GWENT:** 200 at Caerleon's flooded field on 6th April and 250 over the River Usk near Gobion on the same day. The largest flock of the spring was 300 over Monmouth's Millennium Field on 23rd April. On 1st July 110 birds were watched 'sunning' on the golf course alongside Bulmore lakes and on 3rd July

500 were hawking over The Moorings. There were 150 by the River Usk in Abergavenny on 10th. 270 birds were at NWR on 11th July, and 235 passing through the same afternoon in only 25 minutes. Notable pre-roost gatherings at NWR Uskmouth: 1,000 on 13th July and 100 on 26th July. 350 were reported from NWR Goldcliff lagoons on 31st July. Passage continued into Aug, with 100 birds at Peterstone Wentlooge on 2nd and again on 6th; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 100 at Cardiff Bay on 2nd April, 140 at Pendoylan on 6th, 100 at Kenfig NNR on 19th. There were 100 at Cardiff Bay on 8th July and 150 on 10th Aug, 100 at Lavernock Pt on 20th Aug; **GOWER**: 100 at Eglwys Nynydd Res on 30th March with c.200 there on the 31st and c.250 on 2nd April, c.120 at Port Talbot Docks on 19th Aug with 100+ there on the 28th Aug and c.300 at Eglwys Nynydd Res on 27th Aug; **CARMARTHEN**: The highest count received was of c.100 at White Mill on 12th June; **PEMBROKE**: 150 at St. Justinian's on 7th April, 120 at Teifi Marshes on 24th March and 100 at Marloes on 29th March; **CEREDIGION**: The largest flocks noted were 700 at Teifi marshes on 7th April and 600 at Ynyslas on 4th July; **BRECON**: At Llangorse there were 220 birds on 24th March, 200 – 300 feeding on 27th March and a peak spring count of 800 on 4th April. Peak post-breeding roost counts at Llangorse were 1,000+ on 12th July, and 650 on 24th; **CAERNARFON**: Spring passage on Bardsey included 248 on 7th April; **ANGLESEY**: 100+ at Llyn Cefni on 31st March.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

GWENNOL

(C) A widely distributed and common summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding records were **GWENT**: Records from only seven locations, involving nine nests; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding was confirmed at thirteen locations and probable or possible at a further twelve, all within the southern half of the recording area with the exception of Aberdare; **GOWER**: Bred at 33 localities; **CARMARTHEN**: A pair at Newcastle Emlyn were sitting on their third clutch of eggs on 14th Aug; **PEMBROKE**: Five pairs bred on Skomer; **BRECON**: An average breeding season with several reports of nests raising double broods successfully. These included nests in disused quarry buildings at Senni and Ystrad quarry, MOD sentry posts on Epynt, and bus shelters at Glyntawe, Trecastle and Aberbran; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Breeding records were received from 23 sites; **CAERNARFON**: 21 breeding pairs on Bardsey was 56.7% more than the 2002-2011 average, and equals the most ever recorded in 2008. A total of 106 birds fledged from 31 broods, the most fledglings ever observed. Productivity was thus 44.3% up on last year and 6.8% above the 2002-2011 mean. Elsewhere, two broods were recorded at Abersoch.

Large spring counts (240+) were **CAERNARFON**: Spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 310 on 5th May, 354 on the 10th and 355 on 12th May; **ANGLESEY**: 300 at Llyn Traffwll on 26th April. There were 420 at Cemlyn on 1st May, and 270 here the next day. A possible Swallow/Sand Martin hybrid was near Llanrhuuddlad on the 29th April.

Large autumn counts (240+) were **GWENT**: The largest concentration of autumn migrants was seen in the Usk valley at Llanwenarth and Abergavenny, on 25th Sept, where in the morning 'thousands' were noted flying down the River Usk. A ten-minute count of passing birds at Abergavenny on this date tallied 200 (i.e. a rate of 1,200 per hour) while in the early evening passage continued with 2,000 passing the town. On

Oct 4th, 250 birds were at Peterstone Wentlooge; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 250 at Cardiff Bay on 8th. There were 300 on Flat Holm on 15th Sept with 500 there on 25th Sept and 250 at Lavernock Pt on 27th Sept. The highest count of the year comprised 4,800 over Cwm Nash on 1st Oct; **GOWER**: c.350 over Elba Crescent towards Crymlyn Bog on 14th Aug, 300 at Whiteford Point on 1st Oct; **PEMBROKE**: Max autumn movement on Skomer was 500 on 16th and 19th Sept and 1,500 on 24th Sept; **CEREDIGION**: 1,000 at Teifi marshes on 23rd July was the highest count of the year; **BRECON**: 300 roosted in Llangorse reedbeds on 27th July; **CAERNARFON**: Autumn passage on Bardsey included 228 on 18th Aug and a minimum of 700 birds going to roost in the reed bed at Carreg at dusk on the 31st. In September 800 were seen going to roost on 1st, 240 the following day and 400 on 3rd, 678 on the 16th, and 342 were seen on the 20th. On the 24th Sept 246 birds passed through the island, with 782 the following day. The next large count was of 443 on 29th Sept followed by 2,234 on 30th Sept, counted coming in off the sea at the northern end of the island and heading south. At Fort Belan, 6,200 passed the fort in 40 minutes on 25th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: 250 were on wires at Llanfaelog on the 2nd Aug. There were 600+ at Malltraeth Marsh RSPB on 5th Aug, 262 of these were trapped and ringed.

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT:	9 th March	Usk	7 th Nov	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	27 th March	Caerlan Farm	30 th Nov	Bonvilston
GOWER	25 th March	Eglwys Nynydd Res	9 th Dec	Gorseinon
CARMARTHEN	17 th March	Sandy W.P.	27 th Oct	Pwll
PEMBROKE	13 th March	Strumble Head	26 th Oct.	Tenby Harbour
CEREDIGION	22 nd March	Aberaeron, Cors Fochno & Tanybwlich	2 nd Nov	Ynyslas
BRECON	26 th March	Brynich	14 th Oct	Brechfa Common
RADNOR	26 th March	Cwmbach	31 st Oct	Clyro
MEIRIONNYDD	3 rd April	Tywyn	26 th Oct	Tonfanau
CAERNARFON	9 th March	Pwllheli	17 th Oct	Aberdaron
ANGLESEY	25 th March	Mona	19 th Nov	Llyn Coron
DENBIGH (*)	25 th March	RSPB Conwy	4 th Oct	RSPB Conwy

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

GWENNOL Y BONDO

(C) Summer visitor, well distributed and locally common. Wales Amber-listed.

Breeding records were **GWENT**: Breeding records involving about 30 nests came from Newport, Liswerry, Caerleon, North Markham, Argoed, New Tredegar, Wentwood, Llandeud, Monmouth and Hafod Farm, Brynmawr. The seven pairs at Hafod

compares with 19 pairs in 2010 and 22 pairs in 2009; **E. GLAMORGAN:** There were twelve confirmed breeding reports and a further four where breeding was probable or possible. The most northerly confirmed breeding was at Bryngarw; **GOWER:** Bred at 20 localities; **BRECON:** Singles around properties at Llangenny on 10th April and The Cwm, Llanwrthwl on 16th, and 6 at Cynala on 20th. Six returned to inspect old nests in Felinfach from 25th, with 20 birds occupying eight nests by 15th May. Six pairs were nest-building in the vicinity of Llangammarch Wells church on 7th May. Glyntawe possessed a total of 18 occupied nests; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Bred at 14 sites, including nests at around 400m near Llyn Tryweryn; **CAERNARFON:** 2 nests at Borth-y Gest were the first here in over 10 years. Breeding recorded at Betws y Coed and at Dolgarrog. One pair bred successfully on Bardsey, fledging 4 chicks, with a second brood suspected but not proven. Two other pairs began nest building in June, but only the first few layers of mud were applied before they abandoned; **ANGLESEY:** A pair were still feeding young on Mona Industrial estate on the 16th Sept.

Large passage counts (200+) were **GWENT:** 90% of a flock of thousands' of martins at a summer roost at The Moorings on 30th June. On 30th Aug hundreds were over Sudbrook; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 200 at Flat Holm on 2nd Sept; **GOWER:** c.250 at Margam Park on 3rd Aug; **BRECON:** 200 at Llanwrthwl on 15th Aug with 250 there on 8th Sept; **CAERNARFON:** 472 on Bardsey on 30th Sept

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT:	2 nd April	Wentwood Reservoir	27 th Oct	Brynithel
E. GLAMORGAN	7 th April	Mynydd Bach, Maesteg.	13 th Oct	Flat Holm
GOWER	30 th March	Eglwys Nunydd Res	24 th Sept	Hill Tor & Llanrhidian Marsh
CARMARTHEN	17 th April	Cilycwm	8 th Oct	Llandybïe
PEMBROKE	1 st April	Teifi Marshes	3 rd Oct	Cemaes Head
CEREDIGION	22 nd March	Allt-wen	6 th Oct	Pontrhydfendigaid
BRECON	10 th April	Llangenny	25 th Oct	Usk Reservoir
CAERNARFON	23 rd March	Bardsey	4 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	24 th March	South Stack	11 th Oct	Aberlenniog
DENBIGH (*)			9 th Oct	RSPB Conwy

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*
(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list.

GWENNOL DINGOCH

CAERNARFON: There was one at the Great Orme on 10th April.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

TELOR CETTI

(B) Scarce breeding resident, also occasionally recorded on passage.

Several counties noted that the species had been severely affected by the cold weather in recent winters. All records listed, numbers refer to singing males. **GWENT:** Counts in breeding season at NWR were down 75% compared to 2010 and fewer records than usual at some other sites; at NWR maxima were nine in March, 12 in Oct and 11 in Nov; max. three in April and Dec at Magor Marsh, 13 at Llanwern Steelworks and one or two monthly, once three, at Peterstone Wentlooge and singles at Nash, Redwick and Porton; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Possible breeding at Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve, Cadoxton Ponds and Kenfig NNR; birds heard/seen through the year at Cardiff Bay and Kenfig with nine at Kenfig Rivermouth on 5th Nov and in the uplands, one at Tirfounder Fields on 12th Nov; **GOWER:** Probably bred at Margam Burrows/Moors and Eglwys Nunydd Res. One to three singing males at eight sites in the west and 11 males at two locations further east but distribution and numbers reduced after two cold winters; **CARMARTHEN:** Noted at Penclacwydd (4), Penrhyngwyn, Ashpits Pond, Ffrwd Fen, Pinged, Pontnewydd, Kidwelly Quay, Kymer's Canal (5) and Four Wheels, St. Clears; **PEMBROKE:** Away from known breeding sites, birds were noted at Newgale Marsh on 5th and 14th March and at Pembroke in May and at Newgale Marsh and at three other sites between Sept and Nov; **CEREDIGION:** Seen all year at the Teifi marshes, with small numbers breeding and five seen or heard on 15th March and elsewhere one at Aberlari on 30th Sept; **BRECON:** All three known territories at Llangorse Lake held singing birds by early March and successful breeding was confirmed by the trapping and ringing of three juveniles in reedbeds at each of Ty Mawr jetty and south of Llangasty point. A possible fourth territory was close to Crannog Island; **CAERNARFON:** A poor year at the usual site near Porthmadog. It was noted that females in particular seemed to be much reduced in numbers following the cold weather; **ANGLESEY:** One or two at Llyn Dinam from 22nd Feb to 14th May, one at Llyn Cerrig Bach on several dates between 22nd Feb and 22nd April and again on 4th Dec; one at Malltraeth Marsh on three dates - 4th May, 17th June and 20th Nov, one at Llyn Penrhyn on the 16th & 19th Nov and away from their usual haunts one at Llyn Cefni on 4th Dec.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

TITW CYNFFON-HIR

(C) A relatively common resident, widely distributed except on parts of Anglesey and Llŷn. Numbers fluctuate widely from year to year in response to the severity of winter weather. Increasing. Unusual on the islands. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: Three counts of over 20: on 21st Jan between Aberbargoed and Cwmsyfiog; from Llanbadoc on 23rd July and from Llanwenarth on 3rd Aug; **E. GLAMORGAN:** The largest count of the year was 32 at Kenfig NNR on 2nd Jan, with other flocks of 20-22 recorded at five sites; **GOWER:** Largest flock was of 26 at Singleton Park on 26th Nov; **PEMBROKE:** High counts of 31 at Porthclais on 7th Nov, 25 at Ceibwr on 16th Oct and 20 at Kilgetty on 2nd Oct and at Bosherton on 17th Nov; **BRECON:** A flock of 25 at Brynich on 15th Oct was the largest recorded; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Two large 2nd winter flocks were noted, of 16 and 20; **CAERNARFON:** Flocks of 10-23 were seen at six sites during the year; **ANGLESEY:** 25 at Malltraeth on 3rd Jan and 30 in a mixed flock at Ger-y-parc, Brynteg on 23rd Aug.

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*

TELOR PALLAS

(A) *Vagrant, on WRP list.*

There was a single on Skomer **PEMBROKE** on 29th and 30th Oct. In **CAERNARFON**, one was discovered on Bardsey on 26th Oct, then on 30th Oct another bird was found and remained to 1st Nov, when it was trapped and ringed. Another was present from 29th Nov to 1st Dec when it also, was trapped and ringed. There was one at Carmel Head **ANGLESEY** on 16th Oct but it soon disappeared.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

TELOR AELFELYN

(A) *A scarce to uncommon but increasing, autumn passage migrant.*

E. GLAMORGAN: One was at Lavernock Point on 16th Oct; **PEMBROKE:** Singles were at Pwllcrochan on 20th Oct and Skomer on 15th-16th Oct and 3rd Nov; **CEREDIGION:** One at Clettwr ford on 19th Oct was the fourth county record; **CAERNARFON:** One was on Bardsey on 1st Oct; two at Porth Meudwy on 14th Oct and one in the small Caernarfon section of Conwy RSPB on 1st Dec; **ANGLESEY:** Singles at Carmel Head on 1st Oct and at Soldier's Point on the 3rd, 4th 8th and 9th Oct; **DENBIGH:** One at RSPB Conwy on 28th Nov, presumably same as the 1st Dec bird.

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*

TELOR BONELLI

(A) *A vagrant, on BBRC list.*

PEMBROKE: A single at St. David's Head on 3rd Oct was the first bird in the county to be identified and accepted by BBRC as Western Bonelli's Warbler; **CAERNARFON:** One very skulking individual was found on Bardsey on 1st Sept and trapped and ringed; it was only seen briefly after release. This is the first record here since 2007.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

TELOR Y COED

(C) *A summer visitor to oak woods throughout most of upland Wales, declining; passage migrant in small numbers at coastal sites. Wales Red-listed.*

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	9 th April	Wentwood	26 th July	Fair Oak near Devauden
E. GLAMORGAN	7 th April	Three sites	3 rd Aug	Garn Wen, Maesteg
GOWER	19 th April	Rhyslyn Afan Forest	8 th July	Nant Cwmclais
CARMARTHEN	20 th April	Brechfa		
PEMBROKE	23 rd April	Minwear		
CEREDIGION	14 th April	Ynys-hir	3 rd Sept	Ynys-hir
BRECON	17 th April	Taff Trail, Talybont Res.	30 th July	Halfway Forest
RADNOR	10 th April	New Radnor	5 th Sept	Llandrindod Wells
MEIRIONNYDD	20 th April	Coed Cae Fali		
CAERNARFON	17 th April	Tyddyn Rhyddid		

GWENT: In the breeding season noted at Cwmfelinfach, Prisk Wood, Cwm Merddog, Devauden, Trellech Hill, Trellech, Wentwood, where 30 nests were found, Mynydd Du Forest, Forest Coal Pit and Cwmfelinfach; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Noted at Coed Cefn Forest, Garn Wen, Maesteg, Caerau, Cwm Dimbath, Cwm Nant Gwyn, Maesteg Glyn cornel LNR Llanwonno Forest and Mynydd Ty-talwyn; **GOWER:** Bred at 5 sites and reported at 14 locations; **CARMARTHEN:** Breeding season records came from Llyn Brianne, Dinas, Rhandirmwyn, Llandoverly, Halfway, Mynydd Du, Cwm Pedol, Taliaris (6 singing males), Pentre-Davis, Abergwili Abbey Woods, Whitland (2 singing males) and Stradey Woods; **PEMBROKE:** Present at Canaston Wood, Minwear, Pantmaenog and Pengelli; **CEREDIGION:** Breeding counts included 10 pairs at Pontrhydygroes, seven singing males at Longwood, Bettws Bledrws and 12 singing males at Dalarwen Forestry block. 53 territories were found in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir (51 in 2006); **BRECON:** Singing males noted at 13 sites with max. 15 at one site (Myarth, Glanusk); a nest with young was found at Coed Ty-Mawr at Libanus; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Bred at Cae Gwian and Llyn Barfog with singing males or pairs at eight other sites; **CAERNARFON:** There were nine singing males in Coed Dolgarrog on 8th May and four in Cwm Penmachno on 7th June. Two males were singing on Bardsey on 2nd May; **ANGLESEY:** One at Newborough Forest on 1st June.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

SIFF-SIAFF

(B) A locally common breeding visitor in most counties, declining, wintering in small numbers.

Summary of wintering records by month and county, where information available:

	Jan	Feb		Nov	Dec
GWENT				2	1
E.GLAMORGAN	1	1		4	5
GOWER	2	2		1	
CARMARTHEN	1	0		0	6
PEMBROKE					1
CEREDIGION	0	0		0	0
BRECON				2	2
MEIRIONNYDD	0	0		0	0
CAERNARFON				1	3
ANGLESEY		1			2
DENBIGH (*)				1	2

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

In **CEREDIGION** there were 22 singing males at Longwood, Bettws Bledrws (24 in 2010) and 13 at Cross Inn forest (17 in 2010) and 84 territories in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir (35 in 2006); **CAERNARFON:** Although two were at Llanfairfechan sewage works on 3rd March, the first migrants were probably two on Bardsey on 8th March. Autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 74 on 9th Sept and 3rd Oct.

Records of *P.c. tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff) are still being considered by WRP.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

TELOR YR HELYG

(C) Very common in suitable habitats up to around 670 m. Also numerous passage migrant. Wales Red-listed.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	21 st March	Gobion	22 nd Sept	Sudbrook and Black Rock
E. GLAMORGAN	24 th March	Cosmeston CP	29 th Sept	Flatholm
GOWER	26 th March	Eglwys Nynydd Res. & Fendrod Lake	30 th Sept	Hendrefoilan Wood
CARMARTHEN	26 th March	Old Castle Pond	30 th Aug	Llandybie
PEMBROKE	26 th March	Skomer	16 th Oct	Skomer
CEREDIGION	29 th March	Nant yr Arian	29 th Sept	Ynys-hir
BRECON	24 th March	Llangasty Church		
RADNOR	26 th March	Bronydd		
MEIRIONNYDD	6 th April	Peniarth		
CAERNARFON	30 th March	Morfa Madryn	25 th Oct	Porth Meudwy
ANGLESEY	27 th March	Penrhos CP	22 nd Sept	Parc Trwyn-du
DENBIGH (*)	25 th March	RSPB Conwy		

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

GWENT: The highest counts of singing birds in April/May were 22 in St James Forestry, 19 in Wentwood, 15 at Pen-y-fan Pond, 15 at Graig Goch, Cwmfelinfach and 10 to 14 at Aberbargoed, Brynbach, on Grey Hill, on The Bloreng, in Chepstow Park Wood, Blaenavon cemetery and Cwm Gelli. Breeding was proven at Cleddon Bog, on Ysgyryd Fawr, on Beacon Hill and between Aberbargoed and Cwmsyfiog; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Bred or probably bred at 37 sites; **GOWER:** Recorded at 21 sites with 55 singing males in a Rheola Forest BBS square on 21st April; **CARMARTHEN:** Recorded widely with 37 in Pembrey Forest on 19th April and 20 at Halfway on 22nd; **PEMBROKE:** A good spring fall was noted on 2nd April with 200 on Strumble Head and 50 at Marloes Mere; **CEREDIGION:** 31 singing males at Bethania, compared to 18 in 2010, 38 at Cross Inn forest compared to 36 in 2010 and 40 at Clywedog plantation compared to 38 in 2010. There were 162 territories in 112ha of woodland at Ynys-hir compared to 142 in 2006; **BRECON:** In April 20 territories were identified on the Myarth (Glanusk), 18 at Yr Allt (Sennybridge) and 10 singing males in Cnwch Wood. Territory counts in early May from two sites with historic data showed numbers were holding up well: 50+ singing males in west Glasfynydd Forest, a 25% increase since 2003, and 25 males at Bronffynnon showing no change over a similar time-span; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Widespread breeding records with high numbers of singing males per hour in April or May e.g. 22 at Frongoch, 18 in Llangower forest and ten at Parc Cymerau-isaf, Rhyd-y-sarn; **CAERNARFON:** Spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 638 on 2nd April, the highest total since 2004. A minimum of four pairs were recorded breeding on the island, a record total. On autumn passage on Bardsey, numbers in August were some of the highest in over a decade, with an estimated total of at least 1,000 on the 2nd.

Three birds on Bardsey on 4th Nov were all thought to be of the northern race *P. t. acredula*.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

TELOR PENDDU

(C) A plentiful summer visitor throughout Wales, increasing; passage migrant and small-scale winter visitor.

Only wintering records are given for this common breeding species, the table below gives min. totals for both winter periods, for each county, where information available:

	Jan	Feb	Nov	Dec
GWENT	22 (29)		6	
GOWER	13			
CARMARTHEN	1	1	1	2
PEMBROKE	2	2		
RADNOR	2			
CAERNARFON	2			
ANGLESEY	1	1	3	4
DENBIGH RSPB Conwy			1	

E. GLAMORGAN: Wintering birds were reported throughout Jan and Feb, mainly in gardens south of the M4 corridor, with a max of three at any one site. Similar reports in early March were probably overwintering birds too; in Nov and Dec records came from six sites and three were at Cardiff Bay WR on 1st Nov; **GOWER:** One to two passage birds up to 20th Nov from four sites; **CEREDIGION:** Winter records came from Aberystwyth, Aberarth, Cwmtydu and Talybont. A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 82 territories, compared to 42 in 2006; **BRECON:** Autumn passage records: six at The Cwm on 14th Sept and singles (all females) in Oct in a Brecon garden on 15th, from Felinfach on 16th, and on Cockett Hill (Llangorse) on 20th; **CAERNARFON:** Good passage was recorded on Bardsey, with at least 57 on 29th March and 78 on 2nd April. There was a migrant bird on the Little Orme on 5th Oct and four in Porth Meudwy on 25th Oct while Bardsey had 24 records of up to six birds in Nov; **ANGLESEY:** There was a big fall of migrants at Menai Bridge on 16th April, with many singing birds.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

TELOR YR ARDD

(C) A common and widely distributed summer visitor. Regular passage migrant. Wales Amber-listed.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	6 th April	NWR, Uskmouth	1 st Sept	Usk
E. GLAMORGAN	8 th April	Parc Slip NR	10 th Sept	Lavernock Point
GOWER	17 th April	Mewslade & Graig Goch	17 th Sept	Eglwys Nunydd Res.
CARMARTHEN	7 th April	Abergwili		
PEMBROKE	19 th April	Rhyndaston	26 th Oct	Marloes Mere
CEREDIGION	23 rd April	Coed Dolgoed	25 th Aug	Llanrhystud
BRECON	16 th April	Ty Mawr, Llangasty	29 th July	Llanfechan
RADNOR	26 th April	Elan valley	17 th Sept	Glasbury

MEIRIONNYDD	21 st April	Nantmor		
CAERNARFON	15 th April	Bardsey	12 th Nov	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	18 th April	Llyn Cefni	16 th Oct	Cemlyn
DENBIGH (*)	11 th April	RSPB Conwy		

(*) RSPB Conwy.

In **CEREDIGION** there were 11 singing males in a tetrad near Tregaron, six at Longwood, Bettws Bledrws and at Rhos Glyn yr Helyg and 10 at Clywedog plantation. Some 16 territories were located in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir (19 in 2006). A continued increase in breeding birds was noted in **BRECON**.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

TELOR RHESOG

(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list.

There was a single at Porthclais, **PEMBROKE** from 6th - 7th Nov and a juvenile was trapped and ringed on Bardsey **CAERNARFON** on 13th Oct.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

LLWYDFRON FACH

(C) A summer visitor, declining. Passage migrant in small numbers.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	10 th April	Sudbrook		15 th Sept	NWR, Uskmouth
E. GLAMORGAN	11 th April	Jct 34, M4		16 th Sept	Lavernock Point
GOWER	10 th April	Eglwys Nunydd Res.		1 st Sept	Mewslade Valley
CARMARTHEN	17 th April	Penclacwydd			
PEMBROKE	19 th April	Dairy Mountain		4 th Sept	Trefran
CEREDIGION	18 th April	Blaenporth & Llanrhystud		4 th Sept	Teifi marshes
BRECON	6 th May	Felincamlais		9 th Sept	Llangorse Common
RADNOR	27 th April	Nant Glas		16 th Aug	Llanelwedd
MEIRIONNYDD	7 th May	Carreg Fawr			
CAERNARFON	17 th April	Bardsey		30 th Aug	Morfa Madryn
ANGLESEY	7 th April	Llangoed		23 rd Oct	South Stack
DENBIGH (*)	24 th April	RSPB Conwy		18 th Sept	RSPB Conwy

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

The bird of the southeastern race found at Skewen, **GOWER** in Dec 2010 was seen there intermittently from 2nd Jan to 16th April.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

LLWYDFRON

(C) A widespread summer visitor; formerly abundant. Common passage migrant. Wales Amber-listed.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	6 th April	Uskmouth; P Wentlooge	15 th Oct	Uskmouth
E. GLAMORGAN	4 th April	Cardiff Bay; Barry	15 th Sept	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	7 th April	Limeslade Cliffs	25 th Sept	Margam Moors
CARMARTHEN	8 th April	Penclacwydd	4 th Sept	Kidwelly Quay
PEMBROKE	8 th April	Clegyr Boia	19 th Oct	Skomer
CEREDIGION	11 th April	Tanybwllch	15 th Sept	Wallog
BRECON	21 st April	Pennorth	18 th Sept	Felinfach
RADNOR	4 th April	Crossgates	4 th Sept	Llanelwedd
MEIRIONNYDD	13 th April	Llwyngwrl		
CAERNARFON	8 th April	Bardsey	3 rd Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	8 th April	Holyhead Breakwater CP	5 th Sept	Amlwch Port
DENBIGH (*)	19 th April	RSPB Conwy	20 th Sept	RSPB Conwy

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

GWENT: A high density of 12 singing males was noted in <1 mile of hedgerow at Osbaston; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 60 at Kenfig NNR on 25th April. There were 68 singing males here on 19th May. 20 at Lavernock Pt on 12th Aug with 23 on 19th Aug and singles on Flatholm on five dates between 3rd July and 30th Aug were evidence of autumn passage; **GOWER:** Confirmed breeding at 17 sites; **CEREDIGION:** There was a good passage at Llanrhystud with 25 on 22nd April and breeding records in May included nine singing males at Cross Inn forest and 19 at Bethania; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Said to be increasing in the marginal areas of the uplands; **CAERNARFON:** Five pairs bred on Bardsey, the highest number since the 1969 population crash; **ANGLESEY:** 20 males held territories at Cemlyn in the spring.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

TELOR DARTFORD

(B) A rare migrant to coastal areas of south Wales. Bred in 1998 and in small numbers subsequently, increasing. Wales Amber-listed.

E. GLAMORGAN: One was at Llanilid opencast on 6th March, a pair bred at a site on the Heritage Coast and a male was seen at The Walls, Gileston on 19th Nov; **GOWER:** Bred at three coastal sites and present at five others; away from the coast seen at Ergyd Isaf, Mynydd Brombil; **PEMBROKE:** Birds were noted at six locations in the breeding season and at least one pair bred successfully; **CAERNARFON:** There were two, possibly four, at a site on the south coast of the Llŷn peninsula, including a male carrying food. This is a new breeding species for the county.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*

TELOR BRONGOCH

(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list. The eastern race, *S. c. albistriata*, is considered by the BBRC.

On Bardsey, **CAERNARFON** a male of the eastern race *S. c. albistriata* was seen at Tŷ Pellaf on 20th April. On 29th April a male of the nominate western race *S. c. cantillans* was trapped in the garden at Cristin.

2010: The record of a first-summer male of the race *S. c. albistriata* on Bardsey on 23rd-26th May has been accepted by the BBRC.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

TROELLWR BACH

(C) Summer visitor, widely but thinly distributed in all counties. Passage migrant. Wales Red-listed.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	9 th April	NWR	15 th Sept	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	4 th April	Cardiff Bay	21 st Sept	Parc Slip NR
GOWER	10 th April	3 sites	21 st Sept	Llanrhidian
CARMARTHEN	11 th April	Ffos-las & Pwll Fishing Lakes	10 th July	Cnwc y Llwyn
PEMBROKE	2 nd April	Strumble Head	1 st Oct	Skomer
CEREDIGION	29 th March	Llanrhystud	2 nd Sept	Cors Caron
BRECON	9 th April	Y Gors		
RADNOR	10 th April	St Harmon		
MEIRIONNYDD	18 th April	Ynysfor; Llyn Celyn	20 th July	Coed Ffridd Nant-crehyll
CAERNARFON	7 th April	Bardsey	16 th Sept	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	7 th April	Llugwy Marsh	26 th Aug	South Stack

GWENT: Breeding season records came from Waun Afon bog, Corus Llanwern steelworks site, Crumlin Wood and from NWR. Three birds were ringed at NWR on 25th Aug; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Reeling birds were heard at six sites as well as 31 in the Llynfi Valley; **GOWER:** Heard at 33 sites; **CARMARTHEN:** Singing birds were noted at 13 localities; **CEREDIGION:** The species was widely reported during the breeding season at many localities; **BRECON:** Territorial reeling birds were heard at 20 sites and breeding confirmed at The Cwm and probable at Crai Reservoir. Five were trapped and ringed at Llangorse in the late summer; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Singing males widely reported with 16 singing in 1km² of moorland at Mynydd Glan-llyn-y-forwyn on 23rd April but only two a few days later; **CAERNARFON:** Spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 21 on 20th April. There were 12 singing males at 9 sites; **ANGLESEY:** Reeling birds heard in April at the Inland Sea, Cemlyn where probably bred, Mynachdy, Cors Erddreiniog, Cors Goch, South Stack (10 on 21st April) and present through summer till 26th Aug, Penmon Point, Llyn Alaw, and in June noted at Holyhead Breakwater CP and Newborough Warren; one on territory at Mynydd Bodafon all summer.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*
(A) Rare passage migrant, on WRP list.

TELOR AUR

CAERNARFON: One on Bardsey on 21st Aug was trapped and ringed and remained to 28th. Another un-ringed bird was seen on 22nd with three seen on 23rd.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*
(A) A scarce but regular migrant, on WRP list.

TELOR PER

In **PEMBROKE** singles on Skokholm 31st July to 1st Aug and 19th to 20th Aug and at Martin's Haven 8th to 14th Aug. On Bardsey, **CAERNARFON** singles were seen on 11th and 26th Aug and on 7th Sept.

2010: One on Bardsey **CAERNARFON** on 4th Sept.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
(C) A locally distributed summer visitor, numerous in some sites, increasing; plentiful passage migrant.

TELOR YR HESG

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	2 nd April	NWR, Uskmouth	28 th Oct	Uskmouth NB Late date
E. GLAMORGAN	5 th April	Kenfig NNR	15 th Sept	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	6 th April	Eglwys Nynydd Res.	21 st Sept	Llanrhidian
CARMARTHEN	10 th April	Pwll Fishing Lakes		
PEMBROKE	9 th April	St David's Head	5 th Oct	Skomer
CEREDIGION	7 th April	Teifi marshes	22 nd Sept	Teifi marshes
BRECON	16 th April	Ty Mawr, Llangorse Lake		
RADNOR	18 th April	Llowes	11 th Sept	Llowes
MEIRIONNYDD	20 th April	Pont Dysynni		
CAERNARFON	7 th April	Bardsey	8 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	11 th April	Llyn Cefni		
DENBIGH (*)	5 th April	RSPB Conwy		

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

In **GWENT** the main breeding site was NWR with singing at three other coastal sites and a pair bred by the River Wye at Monmouth and three singing by the River Usk at Llanbadoc. A large annual total of 742 birds were ringed at NWR; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Breeding was only confirmed at East Aberthaw and Kenfig NNR (min. six pairs) but possible breeding at six other sites; **GOWER:** Birds bred at two sites but present at a further eight sites; **CARMARTHEN:** 12 were singing at White Bridge on 23rd April, 15 at Penclacwydd on 29th and 12 along the Tywi at Llyshendy on 5th May; **PEMBROKE:** 26 territories on Skomer; **CEREDIGION:** 25 singing males at Bethania in early May, compared to 23 in 2010; **BRECON:** 10 territories at Ty Mawr, Llangorse and between Ty Mawr and Pennorth, with an additional three or four territories near Y Gors; one to two singing males at four other sites and confirmed breeding at Sarnau Pools and Llyn

Traeth Bach; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Breeding records from four locations; **CAERNARFON**: Bred at eight sites on Bardsey; **ANGLESEY**: Bred at Pentre-traeth, near Rhosneigr and at Cemlyn, with seven males heard in the spring and at least two broods seen.

Spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 76 on 20th April. Autumn passage here peaked at 68 on 2nd Aug, with the last record one on 8th Oct .

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

TELOR Y CYRS

(C) Local summer visitor, breeding in reedbeds in many counties, increasing; scarce passage migrant.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	6 th April	NWR, Uskmouth	15 th Sept	NWR, Uskmouth
E. GLAMORGAN	9 th April	Cardiff Bay; Llyn y Gamlas	19 th Sept	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	7 th April	Eglwys Nunydd Res.	22 nd Aug	Mewslade Valley
CARMARTHEN	5 th April	Pwll Fishing Lakes		
PEMBROKE	15 th April	Fortunes Frolic	29 th Sept	Skomer
CEREDIGION	16 th April	Teifi marshes	3 rd Oct	Ynys-hir
BRECON	8 th April	Llangasty Church		
RADNOR	18 th April	Llanbwchllyn	11 th Sept	Llanbwchllyn
MEIRIONNYDD	6 th May	Llyn Tegid		
CAERNARFON	21 st April	Bardsey	4 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	15 th April	Llyn Treflesg		
DENBIGH (*)	8 th April	RSPB Conwy		

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

GWENT: The breeding stronghold was NWR where 27 were singing in April; bred also at Corus Llanwern steelworks and singing noted at eight other sites. A total of 324 were caught and ringed at Uskmouth; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Bred at Cadoxton Ponds, Cardiff Bay WR, Cors Crychyd Reen, Cosmeston CP, East Aberthaw, Forest Farm NR, Hendre Lake and Howardian LNR, and possibly bred at six other sites including Kenfig NNR where 15 were noted on 25th April; **GOWER**: Bred at Oxwich NNR, Crymlyn Bog, Baglan Energy Park and Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, probably bred at three other sites with birds present at nine others; **CARMARTHEN**: 25 were singing at Penclacwydd on 29th April and one at Dryslwyn Uchaf on the Tywi (last bred here in 1990) on 2nd June; **BRECON**: The only known breeding site was at Llangorse Lake; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred or possibly bred at five sites; **ANGLESEY**: Bred at the Alaw Estuary and birds present all summer at Malltraeth Marsh and Valley Wetlands.

WAXWING *Bombycila garrulus*

CYNFFON SIDAN

(B) Winter visitor in varying numbers.

GWENT: Records included eight at Monmouth on 2nd Jan and probably the same birds at Rockfield on 14th Jan. There was a flock of 30 at Cwmbran on 4th Jan, which peaked

at 50 on 10th Jan and was last seen on 19th Jan. Another flock of 30 at Croespenmaen on 4th Jan remained until at least 19th Jan. Other records were eight at Newport from 16th to 19th Jan, 20 in Chepstow on 2nd Feb and 15 in Cwmbran on 4th Feb; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 16 at Penylan, Cardiff on 3rd Jan, two at Creigiau on 4th Jan, 14 at CCW offices, St. Mellons on 6th, 18 at Llanishen on 18th, three at Heath, Cardiff on 20th and six at Mynachdy, Cardiff on 22nd; **GOWER**: Singles at Kingway/Swansea on 8th Jan and at Cimla on 19th Jan; **CEREDIGION**: Six in a back garden at New Quay on 4th Jan; **BRECON**: Four going to roost at dusk in Carno Forest on 16th Feb; **RADNOR**: 17 records of one to two birds from 1st Jan to 21st Feb; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One in garden in Rhiwbrydir on 27th Feb; **CAERNARFON**: Two at Borth-y-gest on 10th March and eight at Llandudno on 17th March; **ANGLESEY**: Two at Beaumaris Allotments on 7th March; **DENBIGH**: 8 at RSPB Conwy on 25th Jan and 3 there on the 28th.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

DELOR Y CNAU

(C) A widely distributed and fairly numerous resident of mature deciduous and mixed woodland throughout Wales. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands.

GWENT: Some 17 pairs nested in the Brynithel/Hafodrynys/Blaensychan area and breeding was reported from six other sites; **E. GLAMORGAN**: There were seven confirmed breeding reports, from Coed-y-Bedw, where 14 nest boxes were used and produced 76 young, Parc Slip, Gellideg, Nantgarw, Treallaw, Cwm Dimbath and Garth Hill, Maesteg and suspected breeding at a further eight sites; **GOWER**: Bred at 16 sites. At Cwm Clydach Study Area, 8 pairs laid eggs, of which 6 pairs fledged 28 young, 3.5 young/box. There were five territories at Park Woods; **CEREDIGION**: A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 19 territories (22 in 2006); **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at 7 sites; **CAERNARFON**: Pairs bred at Ty-hyll, above Tremadog, at Moelyci, at Hafod Lane, Bangor and at Llanbedrog.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

DRINGWR BACH

(C) Resident. Widely distributed in woodlands throughout Wales. Increasing. Unusual on the islands.

E. GLAMORGAN: The highest count of the year was on 16th Dec when six were seen near the Lletty Brongu Sewage Works in Llangynwyd; **GOWER**: Bred at 6 sites; **BRECON**: Sightings entered for the 2011 Winter Atlas involved a minimum of 68 birds in 45 tetrads, and for the Summer Atlas 76 birds in 55 tetrads; **CEREDIGION**: A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 31 territories (35 in 2006); **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at four sites; **CAERNARFON**: Two recently fledged young were at Dolgarrog station. One bird on Bardsey on 31st July.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

DRYW

(C) Abundant resident, found from sea-level to 3,000ft.

CARMARTHEN: A marked decline in numbers was noted at Penclacwydd after the cold winter; **PEMBROKE**: 29 territories on Skomer and 44 on Ramsey; **CEREDIGION**: 134 territories were found in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir, compared to 161 in 2006; **CAERNARFON**: On Bardsey the harsh winter of 2010/11 reduced the number of territories to 81 compared to 107 in 2010.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

DRUDWEN

(C) An abundant resident; passage migrant and winter visitor in large numbers. Wales Red-listed.

Large winter flocks in the first winter period included: **GWENT**: 2,000 at Caldicot on 11th Jan and 1,000 on 19th Feb were only part of a much bigger roost; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 2,000 in Cardiff Bay on 4th Jan and 1,000 at Cors Crychyd Reen on 6th Jan; **GOWER**: In January, there were 2,500 at Pontlliw and 2,000+ at Margam and on 5th Feb 2,000+ over Llanrhidian at dusk; **CARMARTHEN**: Ca. 300,000 birds were at a roost at St. David's Hospital and 20,000+ at Llangennech reed beds; **ANGLESEY**: 6,000 at Cemlyn on 26th Feb; **DENBIGH**: c.5,000 at the RSPB Conwy roost on 20th Jan.

In the second winter period: **GWENT**: 1,000 were at Sluice Farm on 15th Oct and 1,700 at Peterstone Gout on 27th Oct increasing to 4,000 on 1st Nov, but 50,000 at NWR Uskmouth on 27th Nov was the largest gathering; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Some exceptionally large counts included 74,100 at the Kenfig NNR roost on 5th Nov, more than double the previous record for the recording area; **GOWER**: 2,200 at Crofty on 16th Oct, 6,500+ at Llanrhidian on 12th Nov, 12,500 there on 19th Nov and 10,000 on saltmarsh between Crofty and Wernffrwd on 30th Oct and 8,000 there on 12th Nov; **CARMARTHEN**: A roost of 100,000+ birds at Penclacwydd; **PEMBROKE**: The largest roost was at Plumstone with up to 1 million individuals but other roosts held 3,000 at Manorbier on 3rd Dec, 2,000 at Lydstep on 17th Dec and 2,000 at Minwear on 19th Nov; **CEREDIGION**: Large flocks were reported at dawn and dusk in the south-west with 20,000 at dusk near Talgarreg on 14th Nov. The winter roost at Aberystwyth's pier remained very significant; **BRECON**: 5,000 left Llangorse reedbeds at dawn on 25th Oct and at dusk on 27th 7,000 flew around a Llanwern shelter-belt; possibly the same group was 4-5,000 flying north over Troedyrharn early on 31st Oct. At a regular roost on Epynt above Llywel in 2011 in a forest block at Twyn-y-wern, 10,000 on 10th Dec reducing to 7,000 on 23rd, and to 3,600 by 28th; 1,000+ flying SW through Cynala at dusk on 26th Nov headed to roost at Llywel. Feeding flocks of 1,000 at Cwm Llech (Pentrebach) and on Llandefalle Hill in late Dec; **CAERNARFON**: There were many large counts on Bardsey in the first two weeks of November, with almost daily counts of 2,000 or more, including 4,500 on 3rd and 4,300 on the 14th; **ANGLESEY**: 5,000 flew over Bethel to roost on 16th Oct, 2,300 were at South Stack on 19th Oct, 3,000+ at Brynteg on 22nd Oct and 10,000 at Malltraeth Marsh on the 4th Dec.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus*

DRUDWEN WRIDOG

(A) A rare visitor, most often recorded from Pembroke and Caernarfon. On WRP list.

A juvenile was at Oystermouth/Mumbles Road **GOWER** from 4th to 9th Nov and a juvenile was on Skomer **PEMBROKE** from 29th Sept to 2nd Nov. An adult was seen in gorse bushes at Penllyn Marsh, Aberdyfi golf course **MEIRIONNYDD** on 11th Aug. There was a juvenile at Nefyn **CAERNARFON** from 19th Oct to 4th Nov. On **ANGLESEY** an adult was at Rhydwynd on 13th June and a juvenile was in the Holyhead area from 11th Oct into April 2012.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus***BRONWEN Y DWR**

(C) Common resident of fast flowing streams, particularly in hill areas. In winter some individuals move into the lowlands and also make use of estuaries, rocky coasts and lake edges. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: Widespread breeding records on the Rivers Ebbw, Sirhowy and Rhymney, Trothy, Monnow and Afon Honddu, Grwyne Fawr, Afon Llwyd, Penarth Brook, Angidy and Whitebrook, the Gavenny and River Usk and tributaries; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Breeding confirmed at Bryngarw Country Park, on the R. Taff (4 sites), R. Ely (1 site) and probable breeding at six other sites; **GOWER:** Bred at 15 localities; **CARMARTHEN:** Breeding records came from Llanelli, Laugharne, Abergwili and Pentre felin as well as from the north of the county as around Llandovery where nine of 10 territories were occupied, on the Cynghordy Brân, the Tywi, and the Gwenffrwd. In **BRECON** 52 territorial males or pairs were located on streams and rivers south of the Epynt watershed, of which 21 were located in the upper Usk and Tawe tributaries; **CAERNARFON:** Bred at three sites and probable breeding at two other sites with 1-3 birds seen at many sites during the spring. Winter records of 1-2 birds came from the coast at Llanfairfechan, Morfa Madryn and Morfa Aber; **ANGLESEY:** Singing birds noted at Pengorffwysfa on 6th March and at Cwm Cadnant on 6th April, and a single bird was seen at Llangefni on 9th March, 3rd April, 14th May and 2nd Aug.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus***MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD**

(B) Summer visitor breeding in the uplands in decreasing numbers; passage migrant. Wales Red-listed.

Breakdown of records (not including breeding records) by month for each county:

	J	F	M	A	M	June	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT			1	3 (9)				1	2 (7)		
E. GLAMORGAN				2	1			4	4		
PEMBROKE				3					8	6	
Skomer									22	2	
Ramsey				1	1				1		
CEREDIGION			2	7					8		
BRECON				7				8	15		
MEIRIONNYDD				1				2	1	1	
CAERNARFON			1	5				7	1		
Great Orme			3	4							
Bardsey			1	5					7+	1+	
ANGLESEY				7					1	3	

There was a female at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy **MONTGOMERY** on 13th Nov.

Breeding records were: **CARMARTHEN:** There were two breeding season records, a nest at Llyn y Fan Fach and two females at Garn Goch; **BRECON:** A territorial pair was on a Beacons ridge, a pair near Ystradgynlais, two pairs bred on Craig Cerrig Gleisiad and three to four other singing males or pairs in the Brecon Beacons probably bred. Presumed passage birds in April may also have bred; **MONTGOMERY:** No territories were recorded at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy this year; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Most spring records probably referred to breeding birds in at least 16 locations; breeding proven

below Arenig Fawr and below Aran Benllyn; **CAERNARFON:** Singing males were noted at Bwlch-y-ddeufaen, near Ysgolion Duon and pairs at two sites NE of Llyn Cowlyd, with another single male near here, and a pair north of the lake. A pair was carrying food at Penmaenmawr Quarries on 27th May. Three males held territory in tetrad SH65I in Nant Peris on 24th April and a pair in Cwm Idwal on 18th May. On the Snowdon massif, pairs or singing males were noted at four sites.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

MWYALCHEN

(D) Abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

E. GLAMORGAN: 40 at Radyr floodplain on 28th Oct and 40 at Lavernock Point on 8th Nov; **PEMBROKE:** Eight pairs on both Ramsey and on Skomer, max counts there were 45 on 14th Oct and 65 on 11th Nov; **CEREDIGION:** A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 48 territories (62 in 2006); **CAERNARFON:** Seven pairs nested on Bardsey, the highest number since the island was recolonised in 2006 and the highest total since 13 pairs in 1989. Passage was noted on Bardsey in November with numbers reaching 50 on 6th and then 81 on the 7th; **ANGLESEY:** A high count of 50 at Brynteg on 30th Jan.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

SOCAN EIRA

(C) A winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers; usually abundant. Wales Amber-listed.

Table of latest and earliest reports in each county:

	Latest	Site	Earliest	Site
GWENT	3 rd April	NWR Uskmouth	12 th Oct	Leechpool
E. GLAMORGAN	3 rd April	Mynydd Caerau, Maesteg	15 th Oct	Rudry Common
CARMARTHEN	18 th April	Gweunydd Cochion	14 th Oct	Pâl y Cwrt & Mynydd Llanllwni
PEMBROKE	4 th May	Skomer	21 st Oct	Valley Fach
CEREDIGION	29 th March	Ffair Rhos	13 th Oct	Trisant
BRECON	23 rd April	Glasbury	14 th Oct	Llanwrthwl, Llangasty and Brechfa Common
RADNOR			13 th Oct	Elan valley
MEIRIONNYDD			22 nd Oct	Llyn Tegid
CAERNARFON	21 st April	Bardsey	14 th Oct	Bardsey and Llandudno Junction
ANGLESEY	23 rd April	Nr Burwen	14 th Oct	South Stack

In the first winter period: **GWENT:** The highest counts were four flocks of 100-150; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 500 at Merthyr Mawr Warren on 3rd Jan, 150 at Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Maesteg on 8th Jan and 130 at Mynydd Baeden, Maesteg on 28th Jan; **GOWER:** 80 at Mynydd Margam on 11th Jan; **CARMARTHEN:** 103 at Cilsan Bridge on 20th Jan and c.150 at Pentre felin on 9th March; **CEREDIGION:** 200 at Tregaron on 8th Jan; **BRECON:** 110 at Llandefalle Hill on 1st Jan, 150 at Llwynmadoc on 24th Feb and 200 above Cynala in March; **CAERNARFON:** 77 at Hafod Lane, Bangor on 9th Jan.

In the second winter period, the highest counts were: **GWENT**: 250 at Goldcliff on 15th Oct and 300 at Brynmawr on 29th Oct with 500 at Mynydd Llangattock on 30th Oct, then just two flocks of 150 and 200 on the coast; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 300 at Lavernock Pt and 110 at Llanedeyrn on 8th Nov; **GOWER**: 110 at Cwm Dulais near Pontardawe on 1st Nov; **CARMARTHEN**: 200+ at Pâl y Cwrt and c.150 on Mynydd Llanllwni on 14th Oct, c.150 at Pâl y Cwrt on 10th Nov and 100+ at Dryslwyn Bridge on 16th; **PEMBROKE**: 120 at Porthcais on 7th Nov, 100 at Uzmaston on 15th Nov; **CEREDIGION**: 800 on 13th Oct over Trisant, 400 at Ponterwyd on 16th Oct and 300 flying south over Lledrod on 7th Nov; **BRECON**: 1,000+ over Usk Reservoir on 15th Oct, 200 above Talybont Reservoir on 16th, 500+ at Claerwen, 100+ at Cynala and 200 at Crai Reservoir on 17th Oct; 600+ on Pen Milan on 2nd Nov and 200 in Blaenycwm/Cefn Moel area on 10th Nov; **RADNOR**: 2,500 in the Elan valley on 17th Oct; **MONTGOMERY**: 70 at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 14th Oct; **CAERNARFON**: 235 on Bardsey on 7th Nov; **ANGLESEY**: 120 at South Stack on 20th Oct.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

BRONFRAITH

(D) A widely distributed and fairly common resident, formerly abundant. Increasing. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber-listed.

High counts included **GOWER**: 28 at Rhossili on 3rd Jan and 30 at Park Pond NR on 5th Nov; **PEMBROKE**: 30 on Skomer on 14th Oct; **CEREDIGION**: A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 32 territories (55 in 2006); **CAERNARFON**: On Bardsey, up to 21 birds were seen in January and up to 13 in Oct and Nov.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

COCH DAN-ADAIN

(C) An abundant winter visitor and passage migrant; particularly numerous in severe winters. Wales Amber-listed.

Table of latest and earliest reports in each county:

	Latest	Site		Earliest	Site
GWENT	3 rd April	NWR Uskmouth		8 th Oct	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	2 nd April	Whitchurch		24 th Sept	Mynydd Bach, Maesteg
PEMBROKE	March	Skomer		14 th Oct	Slebech
CARMARTHEN	17 th March	Sandy W.P.		12 th Oct	Pentre felin
CEREDIGION	21 st April	Ynys-hir		25 th Sept	Devil's Bridge
BRECON				24 th Sept	Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	22 nd April	Boughrood		14 th Sept	Elan valley
MONTGOMERY				3 rd Oct	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD				16 th Oct	Tywyn
CAERNARFON	1-7 May	Bardsey		13 th Oct	Bardsey & Llandudno Junction
ANGLESEY	3 rd April	South Stack; Cemlyn		13 th Oct	Cors Goch
DENBIGH (*)	30 th March	RSPB Conwy		14 th Oct	RSPB Conwy

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

Large counts in the first winter period were: **E. GLAMORGAN:** 200 at Cardiff Riding School on 9th Jan; **GWENT:** 200 at Undy on 2nd Jan and 300 at Black Rock on 3rd Feb; **PEMBROKE:** 150 at Saundersfoot, on 20th Feb, 70 at Llanpumsaint on 21st Jan; **CEREDIGION:** Few flocks in 1st winter period, the highest count being only 40 on 7th Jan at Pontrhydfendigaid; **CAERNARFON:** 50 at Llanbedrog on 6th Jan. A male was singing at Bishop's Wood **GOWER** on 19th Feb.

The 2nd winter period saw higher counts than in 1st winter period. **GWENT:** 900 flew east in two hours over Peterstone Wentlooge and 360 at Ynysfryo Reservoirs on 16th Oct and later in the year there were three flocks of over 200 scattered through the county; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 400 at Lavernock Pt and 205 at Llanedeyrn on 14th Oct, then overhead passage of 430 at Llanedeyrn, 300 at Penarth and 400 at Radyr floodplain on 15th Oct, 210 at Llanedeyrn on 21st Oct with 160 there on 7th Nov, 700 at Lavernock Pt on 8th, then again at Llanedeyrn 130 on 11th, 120 on 13th and 250 on 14th. In Dec there were 100 at Cosmeston CP on 8th and 14th and 100 at Cwmdru, Maesteg on 29th; **GOWER:** 1,100 over Mumbles Head in an hour on 15th Oct; **CARMARTHEN:** c.50 at Cilsan Bridge on 16th Nov; **CEREDIGION:** 1,000 at Llanddewi Brefi on 14th Oct and several flocks of over 200 noted to the end of the year; **BRECON:** Peak counts were 150 at Usk Reservoir and 100 at Llangasty on 15th Oct, 150 moving through Llanwrthwl on 2nd Nov and a flock of 300 on stubble at Manest Court on 19th Nov; **RADNOR:** There were 2,500 in Radnor Forest on 13th Oct; 2,000 at Llyn Heilyn on 14th Oct and 1,200 in the Elan valley on 17th Oct; **CAERNARFON:** 209 on Bardsey on 24th Oct, 100+ in Bodlondeb Wood, Conwy on 18th Dec, 84 on Bardsey on 14th Oct; **ANGLESEY:** The highest counts were 700 at South Stack on 20th Oct and 200 at Parc Trwyn-du on 8th Nov.

On Bardsey, records in April included at least one bird belonging to the Icelandic race *T. i. coburni*.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

BRYCH Y COED

(C) A fairly common resident; many young birds emigrate in their first autumn.

Largest flocks were: **GWENT:** 30 on Mynydd Llangatock on 24th Sept; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 27 at Llanilid opencast on 29th Aug and 28 at Whitchurch, Cardiff on 3rd Sept; **GOWER:** 57+ at Margam Park on 9th Oct; **CEREDIGION:** 20 near Ystrad Meurig, on 22nd Aug; **BRECON:** 20 near Heol Senni on 14th Aug, 30 at Gamrhiw on 22nd Sept, 25 at Llangorse on 8th Oct increasing to 60 on 10th; **CAERNARFON:** 34 at Llanbedrog on 23rd Aug and 15 at Caerhun on 4th Aug; **ANGLESEY:** 35 at Penrhos CP on 19th Sept.

A very early breeding report came from Cardiff Bay **E. GLAMORGAN** where fledged young were seen on 20th Jan. A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir **CEREDIGION** located 12 territories, compared to 13 in 2006.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

(C) Once a common summer visitor, now appears to be declining; passage migrant, May and August / September. Wales Red-listed.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	1 st May	Peterstone Wentlooge	25 th Sept	NWR Uskmouth
E. GLAMORGAN	14 th May	Cwm Nant Gwyn	10 th Sept	Radyr floodplain
GOWER	7 th May	Square Pond, Neath	4 th Sept	
CARMARTHEN	25 th April	Llandoverly		
PEMBROKE	20 th April	Lydstep	8 th Oct	Porthclais
CEREDIGION	24 th April	Ynys-hir	27 th Sept	Clarach
BRECON	6 th May	Llangasty	18 th Sept	Beulah
RADNOR			18 th Sept	Llandrindod Wells
MEIRIONNYDD	8 th May	Brithdir		
CAERNARFON	23 rd April	Bardsey	4 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	6 th May	Cemlyn		

GWENT: Bred or probably bred at seven sites and seen in the breeding season at ten others; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Bred at three sites, probably bred at another two and possibly bred at five sites; **GOWER:** Bred at 15 sites; **CARMARTHEN:** Records came from 16 locations with breeding confirmed at Llanwrda, Pentre felin, Cnwc y Llwyn Forestry, Brechfa and at Llanmiloe; **CEREDIGION:** Breeding records came from 12 sites. Six territories were mapped in 112ha of woodland at Ynys-hir compared to 7 in 2006; **BRECON:** 45 territories/pairs were found, with many confirmed breeding. There were 4+ pairs at Kilsby near Llanwrtyd Wells, three territories in Hay Forest, three pairs bred at Llangasty, two pairs near Dinas Mill, Llanwrtyd Wells and two at Gofynne; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Pairs noted at Pont Aber Geirw and at Cwm Hesgyn and breeding records from Tabor near Dolgellau, Cwm Croes, Pentre-pïod at Llyn Tegid, Minffordd and the Lower Dysynni; **CAERNARFON:** Four breeding records; **ANGLESEY:** Bred in Newborough Forest.

Spring passage on Bardsey **CAERNARFON** peaked at 28 on 29th May and 20 on the 30th and autumn passage peaked at 11 on 4th Sept.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

ROBIN GOCH

(C) A common and widespread resident in all counties and a passage migrant.

In **E. GLAMORGAN** autumn passage was suggested by 15 at Lavernock Pt on 11th and 25th Oct, and 15 at Cardiff foreshore on 21st Oct. and on Flat Holm there were a maximum of 20 on 22nd Aug. In **CEREDIGION** 65 territories (91 in 2006) were found in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir. Six pairs bred on Bardsey **CAERNARFON** with at least 20 young fledging from 11 broods. Autumn passage on Bardsey included 23 on 15th Sept and a peak of 22 on October.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva***GWYBEDOG BRONGOCH***(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list.*

The only accepted records were: a single female/immature on Skomer **PEMBROKE** on 28th Sept and on 15th Oct and a first-winter bird, possibly a female, on Bardsey **CAERNARFON** on 4th to 5th Nov.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca***GWYBEDOG BRITH***(C) A fairly common summer visitor in most mainland counties, but a rare breeding bird on Anglesey. Now declining. Wales Red-listed.*

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	7 th April	NWR Uskmouth	1 st Aug	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	19 th April	Hendre Lake, St Mellons	14 th Aug	Rumney Great Wharf
GOWER	17 th April	Llangennith Moors	17 th July	Mynydd Canol
CARMARTHEN	6 th April	Cynghordy		
PEMBROKE	2 nd April	Strumble Head	4 th Oct	St David's Head
CEREDIGION	27 th March	Ynys-hir	12 th July	Ynys-hir
BRECON	4 th April	Cathedine Bridge & Abergwesyn		
RADNOR	6 th April	Cefnlllys	10 th Aug	Llowes
MEIRIONNYDD	15 th April	Hafodydd Brithion		
CAERNARFON	29 th March	Coedydd Aber	29 th Sept	Bardsey

In **GWENT** birds were absent from former nesting sites such as Penallt, the Pontypool area, Brynithel and Hafodryns and breeding was only reported from Goytre House Wood and Brynmawr although birds were seen in May/June at six sites in the northwest of the county; **E. GLAMORGAN**: A rapid decline was noted with only one confirmed breeding record, at Lower Cwm Bargoed, but a pair was observed building in a nest box at Cwm Nant Gwyn Wood; **GOWER**: At Cwm Clydach, 51 pairs laid eggs, compared to 35 pairs in 2010. Of these, 37 pairs fledged 214 young, 4.2 per box; **CARMARTHEN**: Seven pairs bred in nest boxes at Abbey Woods, Whitland, with breeding confirmed also at Llanarthne and Dinefwr Park; **PEMBROKE**: Two pairs on territory at Pengelli; **CEREDIGION**: None nested at Llanerchaeron, and reduced numbers were noted at a number of sites in the county. At Ynys-hir 71 territories were located in 112ha of woodland, compared to 76 in 2006; **BRECON**: Breeding records came from Talybont Forest, The Cwm, Rhyscog Farm, Brynbanedd Farm, Battle Hill, Yscirfechan Farm, Trecastle, Cefn Cul, Waungoch (2), Llangasty and in Cwm Claisfer where 93 pulli were ringed. Song/territories also noted in Abergwesyn, Cnwch Wood (6 males), Kilsby near Llanwrtyd Wells (3-4 pairs), Coed Drysiog (3), Craig-y-nos (3-4) and Cwm Oergwm (4); **MEIRIONNYDD**: Probable or confirmed breeding at 12 sites; **CAERNARFON**: Three broods at Pensychnant, five pairs in nest boxes at Ty-hyll and probable breeding at Mynydd Cribau, above Pont-y-pant and at Pensychant. At Coedydd Aber, birds laid in 36 boxes, ten more than in 2010, and fledged 192 young.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

TINGOCH DU

(C) Spring and autumn passage migrant. Winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Amber-listed.

Breakdown of records (minima) by month for each county:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	S	O	N	D
GWENT				1				1	1	1	
E. GLAMORGAN		1	3						1	3	1
GOWER	2									6	3
CARMARTHEN										1	
PEMBROKE		2	2					1	4	5	5
Skomer			2	2					4+		
CEREDIGION	1	1	1						1	3	2
RADNOR				1							
BRECON				1				1		1	
CAERNARFON					1	1			2	1	1
Bardsey			4	4			1		1	8	
ANGLESEY				2						4-6	

In BRECON a singing male returned to the 2010 breeding site on 10th April, and had attracted a female by 9th June; the pair had two successful broods. Sightings in Sept and Nov may have related to members of this family dispersing from the breeding site.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

TINGOCH

(C) A numerous breeding species in deciduous woodland and ffridd in many parts of upland Wales. Locally common elsewhere; scarce on Anglesey and Pembroke. Wales Amber-listed.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	3 rd April	NWR Uskmouth	28 th Oct	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	2 nd April	Mynydd Ty-talwyn	17 th Sept	Radyr floodplain
GOWER			19 th Aug	Maesgwyn East
CARMARTHEN	2 nd April	Penclacwydd		
PEMBROKE	1 st April	Skomer	17 th Nov	Trevallan ranges
CEREDIGION	30 th March	Ynys-hir	11 th Oct	Pontrhydfendigaid
BRECON	4 th April	Abergwesyn	9 th Sept	Trehenry
MEIRIONNYDD	7 th April	Bodilan		
CAERNARFON	7 th April	Bardsey		
ANGLESEY	15 th April	Mynydd Boadafon		

In **GWENT** only 24 pairs reported breeding – in the Brynithel/Llanhilleth and Manmoel areas and at Silent Valley NR, six of these in nest boxes; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding confirmed at Gethin Woods, Coed-y-Bedw and Rudry Common, four singing males at Ystrad/Llwynypia, a pair at Darren-y-Bannau and at least eight males holding territory near Coed-y-Bedw; **GOWER**: Bred at three sites and singing males at a further seven

sites; **CARMARTHEN:** Six singing males were at Pentre-felin on 21st April and in Cyngordy there were six pairs in a 2ha wood; **PEMBROKE:** Breeding birds noted at Cilgerran George, Coed Glynhaeron, Hafod Ddu, Blackpool Mill, Pantmaenog, Rosebush and Pengelly Forest; **CEREDIGION:** 56 territories in 112 ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir (47 in 2006); **BRECON:** Territories in Cwm Claisfer (6), Coedywern (5), Llandefalle Hill (6), Penrhos near Llanwrthwl (9), Bronffynon (10) and Glasfynydd Forest (3); **RADNOR:** 15 pairs at Giffach NR on 25th May; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Bred at 14 locations with singing males at a further three; **CAERNARFON:** There were 25 at Coedty on 8th May and the species generally appeared to have had a very good breeding season, with a large number of newly-fledged young seen.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

CREC YR EITHIN

(C) Summer breeding visitor; now predominantly a species of upland areas. Declining.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	12 th April	Blorengae	25 th Sept	Redwick & West Usk Lighthouse
E. GLAMORGAN	24 th April	Troedyrhiw Common	24 th Nov	Southerndown
GOWER	14 th May	Abergwynfi	3 rd Oct	Weobley Causeway
CARMARTHEN	10 th May	Llyn Brienne	8 th Oct	Pwll Sewage Works
PEMBROKE	1 st May	Skomer	18 th Oct	Bosherton
CEREDIGION	18 th April	Cors Caron	20 th Sept	Nant y Moch reservoir
BRECON	23 rd April	Cwm Llŵch & Cwm Banw	13 th Sept	Garnlydan
RADNOR	26 th April	Glasbury	4 th Oct	Newchurch
MEIRIONNYDD	18 th April	Llyn Celyn		
CAERNARFON	15 th April	Bardsey	13 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	22 nd April	Various sites	3 rd Oct	HHBWCP

GWENT: Over 200 nestlings were ringed on the Blorengae and at Mynydd Garn Clochdy/Fawr and bred too at Garnlydan Reservoir; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Breeding was confirmed at Mynydd-y-Capel, Troedyrhiw Common (max. 6 birds) and Lower Cwm Bargoed (max 15 birds) and pairs reported at Cwmparc, Rhondda. At Ystrad/Llwynypia it was noted that birds had not bred since 2004, compared to 10 pairs in 2001 and 18 pairs in 1978; **CARMARTHEN:** Breeding was confirmed at Mynydd Llanillwni, Mynydd Pencarreg and at Llyn Brienne; **CEREDIGION:** Bred at Cwm brefi (4 males) lower Cwm Pysgotwr (4), Soar y Mynydd area (11) and Cwm Carfan (2); **BRECON:** 31 territories - in Trembydd area (6), along Ceredigion border (5), at Heol-las (5), around Blaenbwch Hill (4), at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad (3), Cwm Onneu (3) and Cwm Banw (3) and at the Darren, Crickhowell (2). There were also 11 territorial males in the Bronffynnon area and elsewhere 56 males/pairs were reported; **PEMBROKE:** Two pairs at Brynbeiran Moor during the breeding season; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Bred at four sites and singing males at almost 20 locations with 16 singing in the Craig yr Hafod/Graig Ddu area; **CAERNARFON:** Breeding was proved at four sites with pairs at two other sites.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus***CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG**

(C) Breeding resident, locally common in coastal areas and spreading inland. Increasing. Wales Amber-listed.

Some declines or absences in the early winter period were noted after the severe weather.

GWENT: Bred at eight sites; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Bred at 12 sites (one to four pairs) and possibly or probably bred at two other sites. In 1st winter period 11 were at Mynydd Bach, Maesteg, and post breeding, 19 at Portobello, Ogmore Est. Four presumed migrants were at Nash Pt on 15th Oct and one at Radyr floodplain on 16th Oct; **GOWER:** Bred at 27 localities, max 14 at Rhossili on 4th Sept; **CARMARTHEN:** Bred at Pâl y Cwrt and seen in the breeding season at Gweunydd Cochion, Pembrey, Marros Common and Ginst Point. Numbers along the coast in the Llanelli – Burry Port area were badly affected by the freezing conditions in December 2010; In **CEREDIGION** a slight increase in records suggested some recovery from the winter of 2009/10 though the cold winter in 2010/11 also affected breeding numbers. Inland pairs were reported from near Llyn Fanod, Cross Inn forest, Soar y Mynydd, Lledrod common, Cwm Doethie, Cwm Brefi and Ffair Rhos. 12 were counted between Clarach and Aberystwyth on 27th Sept and seven at Mwnt on 1st Oct; **BRECON:** Three territories on Mynydd Illtyd; in breeding season birds also at Castle Drake, Pont-ar-wysg and Gwaun Hepste and on commons at Twmpath, Waun Hirwaun, Pantyllyn and Craig Cerrig Gleisiad and at Bronffynnon. A further 53 territories were identified at 46 sites between April and July with family parties present at many; **MEIRIONNYDD:** One or two pairs bred at 11 sites with records from three other areas in the breeding season; **CAERNARFON:** Numbers were much reduced following a very cold period in December 2010, but upland birds seemed less affected than those along the coast where this species was scarce. Breeding pairs were seen at four inland and three coastal sites. On Bardsey three pairs nested, compared with one in 2010, with 29 young fledged from eight broods; **ANGLESEY:** Birds were at Mynydd Bodafon and Llyn y Fydlyn in the breeding season and breeding noted on The Range. 14 at South Stack on 28th Sept and 2 pairs at Newborough Warren on 9th Dec.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina***TINWEN ISABELLA**

(A) Very rare vagrant, on BBRC list.

One first-winter male from 5th to 10th Nov at Wernffrwd **GOWER**.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe***TINWEN Y GARN**

(C) Summer visitor and passage migrant. Locally common, favouring upland areas with sheep-grazed turf. Wales Amber-listed.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	9 th March	Sluice Farm	5 th Nov	NWR Uskmouth
E.GLAMORGAN.	4 th March	Old Castle Down, St Brides Major	22 nd Nov	Pink Bay
GOWER	13 th March	Common Cliff	20 th Nov	Brunel Dock/Briton Ferry

CARMARTHEN	12 th March	Penrhyngwyn	12 th Dec	Pwll
PEMBROKE	8 th March	Skomer	16 th Nov	Bosherton
CEREDIGION	12 th March	Tanybwch	19 th Nov	Ynyslas
BRECON	13 th March	Mynydd Llangynidr	17 th Oct	Nantygreiddyn Farm
RADNOR	11 th March	Glasbury	20 th Oct	Shepherds Well
MEIRIONNYDD	21 st March	Arenig Fawr	14 th Oct	Cwm Himant
CAERNARFON	8 th March	Bardsey	12 th Nov	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	13 th March	Cemlyn	20 th Nov	Porth Nobla
DENBIGH (*)	13 th March	RSPB Conwy	4 th Oct	RSPB Conwy

(*) RSPB Conwy only.

In **GWENT** many passage records with 11 birds inland at Trefil Quarries on 2nd April and in the autumn several counts of 20+ on the coast but no confirmed breeding; **E. GLAMORGAN**: The highest counts in early spring were 25 at Mynydd Bach, Maesteg (two different locations) on 8th April, and 30 at Llanilid on 9th April. Bred at Ogmores-by-Sea, Sker Pt/Pink Bay, and Craig yr Efail, three pairs at Ystrad/Llwynypia and pairs at many other sites with suitable habitat from mid April onwards. In the autumn notable counts were 20 at Lavernock Pt on 4th Sept and a total of 40 around the Rumney Great Wharf area on 10th Sept. There were 2 on Sully Island on 2nd Oct; **GOWER**: Bred at seven sites and probably bred at another; **CARMARTHEN**: Breeding was confirmed at Ffos-las, Llyn y Fan Fach, Pâl y Cwrt, Llyn Brienne and Gweunydd Cochion. Autumn passage saw 14 at both Mynydd Du and between Pwll and Penrhyngwyn on 2nd Oct; **PEMBROKE**: 5 pairs on Skomer and 106 pairs on Ramsey. A big fall on the north coast on 10th April with 80 at Strumble Head and 50 at Cemaes Head, 20 at Marloes Mere and 40 on Skomer on 30th April. There were 70+ adults and juvs in the Preseli between Foel Drygarn and Pantmaenog on 24th July. Autumn max 25 between Dale and Kete on 29th Aug; **CEREDIGION**: Widely reported in spring with 50 at Mwnt on 2nd April; **BRECON**: 72 breeding territories were identified at 54 upland sites, the densest being seven at Penwyllt. Pairs with families were seen at several sites; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at six sites and one to ten territories at five other locations; **CAERNARFON**: Breeding was recorded above Llyn Du, at Cwm Tal-y-braich and in Cwm Idwal. 11 pairs bred on Bardsey. A study of two tetrads in the Snowdon area produced an estimate of 34 in SH65G (Lliwedd/Cwm Merch) on 22nd April and 16 here on 27th June. In SH65B (Cwm Llan), there were an estimated 30 on 24th April and 18 on 28th June. Monthly max. counts on Bardsey were 61 in March, 204 in April, 173 in May, 14 in June, 28 in July, 38 in Aug, 101 in Sept and 27 in Oct with one in Nov; **ANGLESEY**: The highest passage counts were 33 at Carmel Head on 9th April and 30 at Cors Erddreiniog on 17th April; in the autumn 30 at South Stack on 20th Sept, 23 at the Alaw Estuary on 20th Sept and 21 at Carmel Head on the same date.

Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race *leucorhoa* were: **PEMBROKE**: Six on 23rd April at Marloes Mere in a big fall of nominate birds at several sites; **CEREDIGION**: Many along the coast in late April and May with a high count of 25 at Llanrhystud on 22nd April; **BRECON**: Three at Crai Reservoir on 22nd April and a female at the eastern end of Mynydd Illtyd on 6th May; **CAERNARFON**: Two on the Little Orme on 3rd Oct and four on the Great Orme on 27th Oct; **ANGLESEY**: Two at South Stack on 3rd April and eight at Mynydd Bodafon on 14th April.

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti*
(A) A vagrant, on BBRC list.

TINWEN Y DIFFAETHWCH

A first-winter male on Skomer on 15th Nov was the 2nd record for **PEMBROKE**.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

(C) Abundant breeding resident. Passage migrant and possible winter visitor in small numbers.

E. GLAMORGAN: Ten in the 2nd winter period at Lavernock Pt on 8th Nov was notable; **GOWER:** 11 at Shirecombe on 15th May; **CEREDIGION:** A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir located 18 territories (21 in 2006); **CAERNARFON:** On Bardsey, 34 singing males were reported, a 17.2% increase on 2010 and many pairs reared young and had second broods. In mid-Sept autumn migrants arrived with numbers more than doubling from 11 on 18th to 22 on 19th and then 46 on 20th after which numbers then fell and fluctuated to early Oct when another arrival took place on 1st, with 39 birds counted.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

ADERYN Y TO

(C) Resident, breeding throughout Wales in all counties. Not ubiquitous, however, and absent from many upland settlements. Significant declines noted in most areas during 1970–1990 but this may have been reversed by the end of the century. Wales Amber-listed.

Large counts (over 70) included: **GWENT:** A flock varying between 50 and 100 at Peterstone Wentlooge during July, 100 at Collister Pill on 3rd Aug; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 80+ at KNNR (around feeders) in Jan, 70 at Creigiau on 27th May, 141 at Lock's Common, Porthcawl on 26th Aug; **CARMARTHEN:** c.100 feeding on grain at Llanpumsaint on 21st Jan; **BRECON:** No large counts but 37 to 41 birds fed daily in a Llangynidr garden in the autumn and 55 were in a Felinfach garden in August; **MEIRIONNYDD:** A count of 104 at Tywyn on 3rd Jan; **CAERNARFON:** 150+ in a barley field near Glanwydden on 24th July.

On **ANGLESEY** there were 19 nesting attempts in 10 boxes at a Llyn Traffwll garden with minimum of 53 young fledging and at Cemlyn 90 birds seen on 26th July.

Max. monthly counts in garden at Llyn Traffwll, **ANGLESEY:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	31	27	27	31	58	49	107	59	46	38	34

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

(C) Breeding resident in small numbers with a patchy distribution. Absent from most western areas. Declining in most areas. Wales Red-listed.

A summary of all records: **GWENT:** One was at Porton on 23rd Jan and two pairs bred in boxes here with one brood ringed; **E. GLAMORGAN:** Only three reports: one at Parc Slip NR on 25th Feb and 3rd March, and 2 at Splott Farm, St. Donat's on

27th Oct. There were 18 pairs in nestboxes in the mid Tywi valley; **GOWER**: One among House Sparrows at a feeder at Middleton from 21st Feb to 21st March and one or more seen at Newtron Farm on 27th-28th Dec; **CARMARTHEN**: Limited work on the Tywi population found 18 pairs in nestboxes. Productivity was low, with 2.2 young fledged per box. Numbers at feeding stations were good in both the first and second wintering periods with counts of 40 or more being regular. One feeding in a Tycroes garden on 24th Dec was the only record away from the core area; **PEMBROKE**: One record, a single at St.Davids Head on 21st April; **BRECON**: Records from three areas: six birds in two gardens in Llechfaen on 23rd March and two pairs bred in the village; a pair bred near Garthbreny and regularly visited feeders and a poultry run from July to December, one adult visited feeders at Twyn-yr-odyn, Llanfilo from 29th Oct to mid Nov; **RADNOR**: A flock of 85 was near Walton in Sept, the largest flock since 1985, continued increase and spread; **CAERNARFON**: Singles in a large Chaffinch flock at Sarn on 8th Jan and at Haulfre Gardens, Llandudno on 9th Dec; **ANGLESEY**: One with House Sparrows at Tregle on 30th Dec.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

SIGLEN FELEN

(B) A summer visitor, now breeding regularly in only four counties. Wales Red-listed.

Notable counts included: **GWENT**: 10 coastal records of one or two birds and nine birds at St Brides in April/May. Inland records in the autumn included two in July, August and also in Sept. There were 69 coastal records of mainly of one to seven birds but included 38 at Sudbrook on 27th Aug, 25 at Goldcliff on 28th Aug, 10 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 29th Aug, then on 9th Sept 30 at Goldcliff and 20 at Uskmouth, where 15 were trapped and ringed. The last bird of the year was at Collister Pill on 26th Sep; **E. GLAMORGAN**: The first record was at Cardiff Heliport on 23rd April. In Sept there were notable counts of 20 over at Cwm Nash and 29 at Rumney Great Wharf on 1st, then 23 at the latter site on 3rd. The last records were one at Aberthaw Power Station and 5 at Nell's Pt, Barry on 28th Sep; **GOWER**: 24 at Rhossili on 2nd Sept; **PEMBROKE**: 10 at St. Ann's Head on 27th Aug and 10 at Pencarnan on 1st Oct; **CEREDIGION**: Max 3 at Llanrhystud on 22nd April; **ANGLESEY**: Max 4 at Cemlyn on 6th May; **DENBIGH**: Max 6 at RSPB Conwy on 3rd May.

Breeding records were: **GWENT**: Pairs were seen at Dingestow Court, Trellech Grange and Pen-y-lan and breeding probable or proven at Monmouth, Llangybi, Llanellen, Llanvair Kilgeddin and NWR Goldcliff lagoons; **E. GLAMORGAN**: There were no breeding reports but small numbers were present in suitable habitat in May and July in four areas; **BRECON**: A pair at Llangasty produced two juveniles and was the only definite breeding record but two juveniles on Llandefalle Hill on 19th Aug and parties of five and six by the Wye above Glasbury on 20th and 26th Aug were probably local families.

Records of races included:

M. f. flava - Blue-headed Wagtail

CAERNARFON: A male was seen on Bardsey on 22nd April, with another on 6th May; **ANGLESEY**: A male was seen feeding near cattle at Ty'n Llan, Cemlyn on 6th May.

M.f. thunbergi – Grey-headed Wagtail
Rare vagrant, on WRP list.

A male was in a recently-ploughed field at Cemlyn, **ANGLESEY** on 26th May.

M.f. feldegg – Black-headed Wagtail
Rare vagrant, on BBRC list.

A male near Ty'n Llan, Cemlyn, **ANGLESEY** on the 6th May was only the 3rd record for Wales.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*
(A) *Rare vagrant, on BBRC list.*

SIGLEN SITRAIDD

A male was at RSPB Conwy **DENBIGH** on 15th-16th May and what was thought to be the same bird was seen at Cemlyn **ANGLESEY** on 17th May.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

SIGLEN LWYD

(C) *Locally common breeding resident, mainly along fast-flowing streams in all mainland counties of Wales. Increasing but very scarce on Anglesey. Most move away from hills in the autumn and either emigrate or frequent sites on lower ground.*

Widespread records in all counties but undoubtedly under-recorded and suggestion that numbers were reduced by the cold winter weather in late 2010. **GWENT**: Present in breeding season at 49 sites with many pairs proven breeding; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Breeding was confirmed at 6 sites. The highest count was 15 at Llety Brongu on 29th Jan; **GOWER**: Bred at 18 localities; **BRECON**: Breeding was suspected at 29 sites mostly in the west of the county and was confirmed at eight of these; **MERIONNYDD**: Bred at at least six sites; **CAERNARFON**: Birds bred or probably bred at four sites. The highest count on Bardsey was ten on 27th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: There were nine coastal records, and birds were recorded at Llangefni Dingle and Cemaes Valley throughout the year.

PIED WAGTAIL *M. alba*

SIGLEN FRAITH

(C) *A common and widespread breeding resident in many habitats. Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. The continental race, White Wagtail, M.a. alba, is a regular passage migrant, occasionally breeding.*

E. GLAMORGAN. There were roosts of 255 in Cardiff City Centre and 160 at Llety Brongu in Jan and 400 and 80 respectively at these two sites in Dec with two other smaller roosts; **GOWER**: The largest flocks were 127 at Castell-Du on 22nd Aug and 141, at Landimore on 10th Oct; **CEREDIGION**: 30 at Portland St., Aberystwyth, on 21st Nov; **BRECON**: The only large flock was of up to 150 at Brecon STW on 3rd Jan. No roost counts were received; **CAERNARFON**: Pied Wagtails had an exceptional year on Bardsey, with a record 11 pairs fledging 42 young. Autumn passage on Bardsey increased during August, with up to 60 present by late month and 103 on 1st Sept, then declining and last seen end Oct; **ANGLESEY**: There was one nest on The Skerries in the breeding season, with a tetrad estimate of 5 pairs.

M. a. alba [White Wagtail / Siglen Wen]

Approx. county totals of White Wagtails *M. a. alba*:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT			1	4	1			4	3	6		
E. GLAMORGAN				7					1			
GOWER				29+					25+			
CARMARTHEN			1									
PEMBROKE				55				6	40	2+		
BRECON				8	1							
RADNOR				4								
CAERNARFON				8-13								
Bardsey			4	73	15			3	117	3		
ANGLESEY			2	277	146				3			
DENBIGH RSPB Conwy			5	17								

There were 60 at Cemlyn **ANGLESEY** on 18th April. In **CEREDIGION**, birds were seen at various coastal locations between 13th March and 10th May with counts of 20 at Blaenporth and 25 at Llanrhystud; exceptional numbers at a roost in the Teifi marshes with 215 on 16th April and 100 on 18th April.

In autumn on Skomer **PEMBROKE** there were two on 21st, 22nd & 29th Aug, four on 31st Aug, 40 on 2nd Sept, 12 on 3rd Sept and 10 on 4th Sept, then small number throughout September, finally two on 5th Nov. In **CEREDIGION** small numbers were seen between 28th Aug and 28th Sept with six at Llanon on 2nd Sept the highest count.

On **ANGLESEY**, there was a mixed flock, of both *yarrelli* and *alba* of 55 birds at Traeth Llugwy on 7th April.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

CORHEDYDD RICHARD

(A) A scarce autumn passage migrant, on WRP list.

PEMBROKE: Singles on Skomer on 14th & 28th Oct and 12th Nov, at St. David's Head on 2nd Nov and Marloes Mere on 19th Nov; **CAERNARFON**: The only records were on Bardsey with one on 27th Sept and two on 28th and on the Great Orme with one from 25th Sept to 12th Nov. On **ANGLESEY** singles were at Mynachdy on 28th Sept, at Soldier's Point on 15th Oct and, flying west over Llanbadrig on 16th and over Cemlyn on 28th Oct.

2007 additional record: one at St. David's Head **PEMBROKE** on 20th Oct.

TREE PIPIT *A. trivialis*

CORHEDYDD Y COED

(C) A widely distributed and locally numerous summer visitor, increasing. Passage migrant in fairly small numbers, best marked on the south coast in autumn. Wales Amber-listed.

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	17 th March	Blaenserchan		9 th Sept	Ynsyfro Reservoir
E. GLAMORGAN	1 st April	Kenfig NNR		17 th Sept	Radyr floodplain
GOWER	19 th April	Cwm Philip		21 st Sept	Leason Pill
CARMARTHEN	19 th April	Pembrey Forest			
PEMBROKE	16 th April	Ty Rhyg		20 th Oct	Skomer
CEREDIGION	8 th April	Pontrhydgroes			
BRECON	4 th April	Upper Irfon		16 th July	Mynydd Fforest
RADNOR	8 th April	Elan valley		7 th Sept	Penybont
MEIRIONNYDD	10 th April	Dduallt			
CAERNARFON	2 nd April	Bardsey		6 th Nov	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	9 th April	Carmel Head			

In **GWENT** singing birds were heard at 11 sites with one or more pairs proven breeding at Wentwood, near Trellech and on Beacon Hill near Trellech, at Coed Cefn Rhychdir and at Five Paths, Wentwood and at Pochin Houses; **E. GLAMORGAN**: The only confirmed breeding was at Rudry Common on 2nd June but birds were seen in suitable habitat or heard singing at eight sites; **GOWER**: Bred at three sites, probably bred at another and singing males at nine other locations; **CEREDIGION**: Bred at Cross Inn (five singing males), at Cwm Doethie (15) and at Dalarwen Forestry block (four). In 112ha of woodland at RSPB Ynys-hir there were 43 territories; **BRECON**: During April/May, four sites held a total of 21 displaying males and there was confirmed breeding at two other sites; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Singing males or probable or confirmed breeding at 19 sites and in **CAERNARFON** at three sites.

MEADOW PIPIT *A. pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

(C) A widespread and numerous breeding species, especially on moorland. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Most breeding birds are summer visitors. Wales Amber-listed.

Large flocks were: **GWENT**: Passage peaked on the coast on 25th March, with 150 at NWR Goldcliff lagoons and away from the coast. 100 were on Mynydd Maen on 27th March with three other flocks elsewhere of 30-50 birds; 100 were at Mynydd Garn Wen on 28th Aug and coastal flocks peaked in mid Sept with flocks of 50, 100, 110 and 140 at Peterstone Wentlooge and 200 there on 8th Oct; 60 were in the Monnow valley near Osbaston on 21st Oct; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Autumn passage: 850 at Cwm Nash on 1st Oct, 60 at Lavernock Pt on 14th Oct, 50 at Mynydd Bach, Maesteg on 15th Oct and 50 at Rumney Great Wharf on 20th Oct; **GOWER**: A flock of 200 at Mynydd Canol on 29th July, four counts of 50-60 in Sept and 120 at Rhossili on 2nd Oct; **CARMARTHEN**: 200+ in a south-westerly passage over Mynydd Du on 2nd Oct, c.50 at Troed y rhiw, Rhandirmwyn on 20th May, 50+ between Pwll and Burry Port on 17th Sept; **PEMBROKE**: 100 on Dale Air Field on 2nd Oct; **CEREDIGION**: The largest flocks were 65 at Llanrhystud on 16th March, 40 at Tanybwlich on 21st March and 70 at Llanrhystud on 27th Sept; **BRECON**: 80 at Cwmfforest on 4th April and in the autumn 50 were in Cwm Llech (Pentrebach) on 13th Aug and 50 at Dinas, Llanwrthwl, on 27th, 200 at Gamrhiw on 22nd Sept, flocks of 50 at both Mynydd Aberyscir and Bwlchwaun Farm on 28th and 30th September respectively, and 200 at Talybont Reservoir on 18th Oct; **CAERNARFON**: 500 were recorded flying west per half hour at Morfa Madryn on 2nd

April. Spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 430 on 24th and 26th March, while autumn passage here peaked at 603 on 1st Oct; **ANGLESEY**: Passage was noted in the spring with 150 at Cemlyn on 13th March, 600 on 3rd April and 375 on 20th, 134 at Carmel Head on 9th April and 100+ at South Stack on 22nd April

Breeding: **PEMBROKE**: 45 territories on Skomer and 66 territories on Ramsey; **CEREDIGION**: There were an estimated 160 pairs between Cwm Brefi and Cwm Carfan on 11th May; **BRECON**: 24 territorial pairs were found on the eastern half of Mynydd Illtyd on 6th May. A general decline was noted. In the Bronffynnon/Camddwr area there were 12 breeding territories on 80% of the area in early May compared to 45 across the whole area in 2004; **MONTGOMERY**: The annual index survey on ten 1km squares at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy produced a figure of 58.7 territories. The index has risen markedly since 2004; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Widespread breeding records, with 29 noted in two hours on Foel Cynfal on 7th May; **CAERNARFON**: 59 pairs were located on Bardsey, a 4.8% decline on the previous year but 10.1% higher than the 2002-2011 mean. In the Snowdon area an estimated 56 were found in SH65G (Lliwedd/Cwm Merch) on 22nd April and 90 there on 27th June. In SH65B (Cwm Llan), there were an estimated 35 on 24th April and 53 on 28th June.

ROCK PIPIT *A. petrosus*

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

(C) A breeding resident of rocky coastlines in all coastal counties except Flint and Gwent. Winter visitor in small numbers.

GWENT: Nine coastal records through the year of one to five birds; **E. GLAMORGAN**: A pair bred on Flat Holm and also at Cardiff Bay Barrage with counts of 6-10 birds at three sites including Flatholm; **GOWER**: Bred at High Tor and Southgate Port Talbot Harbour (3 pairs); **CARMARTHEN**: Bred at Salmon Scar and six were displaying at Wharley Point on 29th June. The highest count was seven along the Llanelli seafront on 2nd Oct; **CEREDIGION**: Birds were seen all around the coast throughout the year and well up the Dyfi during the winter months. The largest flock seen was of 20 at the Teifi estuary on 28th Aug; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One at Fairbourne in suitable breeding habitat. One on Tonfanau Beach in the autumn and seven on Meirionnydd end of the Cob, Porthmadog on 30th Nov; **CAERNARFON**: A pair at Penychain and two pairs and several newly fledged young at Porth y Nant on 11th June and on Bardsey, 31 territorial pairs, a 24.4% decline. Also seen regularly in Caernarfon town centre; up to 8 along Caernarfon foreshore in December and 15 at Foryd on 1st Oct, 15 on the Great Orme on 27th Oct and 8+ on the Little Orme on 8th Sept with 6 here on 3rd Oct. There were 11 at Porth Ysgaden on 25th Oct; **ANGLESEY**: Two to eight seen on the Cefni Esatuary, at Red Wharf Bay and at Cemlyn in the spring with two to four at three other locations in June and July. One nest on The Skerries in the breeding season, with a tetrad estimate of six pairs and bred too at South stack. Up to eight were at four coastal locations from Sept to Dec.

Two birds of the Scandinavian race *littoralis* were seen in breeding plumage on 3rd April at Berges Island, **GOWER**.

WATER PIPIT *A. spinoletta***CORHEDYDD Y DWR**

(B) A winter visitor in small numbers, mainly recorded in coastal areas but also, less frequently in Wales, inland. Passage migrant in small numbers.

	J	F	M	A	M		S	O	N	D
GWENT	30									
E. GLAMORGAN	2	1							3	2
GOWER	1								2	2
PEMBROKE										2
CEREDIGION		4						1	1	
MEIRIONYDD										2
CAERNARFON								2		
Bardsey	1									
ANGLESEY									1	

2009 record: two at Collister Pill, GWENT on 17th Jan.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs***JI-BINC**

(C) An abundant resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. Possibly declining.

Counts of flocks over 150 in the first winter period were: **GWENT:** 284 at Nedern wetlands on 9th Jan and 200 on Clytha Hill on 25th Feb; **PEMBROKE:** 300+ at Sprinkle Pill on 13th Feb; **CEREDIGION:** 220 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 5th Jan; **BRECON:** The largest flock was 140 at Pennorth on 17th Feb; **MEIRIONNYDD:** 120 at Penrhyndeudraeth on 19th Jan; **CAERNARFON:** 500 at Sarn on 8th Jan and 150 at Llanllechid on 30th Jan.

A four visit Common Bird Census in 112ha of woodland at Ynys-hir **CEREDIGION** located 97 territories (133 in 2006). In **BRECON** 90 in pairs or family parties were found during Atlas fieldwork in conifer forest between Nantystalwyn and Moel Prysgau on 30th June.

In the second winter period: **GWENT:** 585 flew east past Peterstone Wentoo, on 15th Oct; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 2,300 at Dunraven Park and 320 at Lavernock Point on 14th Oct and 200 at the latter site on 2nd Nov; **GOWER:** c.150 at Ffynnon-fedw Farm near Felindre, on 15th Nov; **CEREDIGION:** 150 at Frongoch College farm, Aberystwyth on 7th Oct; **CAERNARFON:** Autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 297 on 1st Oct, 471 on the 14th and 472 on the 15th. There were 250 at Llanllechid on 1st Nov; **ANGLESEY:** 176 flew over Carmel Head on 16th Oct, 510 at South Stack on 19th Oct, 850 flew over Carmel Head on the 20th Oct and 250 flew west at Point Lynas on 22nd Oct.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla***PINC Y MYNYDD**

(C) Winter visitor in variable numbers; seldom numerous and usually locally distributed.

Summary of records from counties:

	J	F	M	A	M		S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN	5	3	2	5				3	3	
GOWER	c.24	3							1	
CARMARTHEN	4	1						1 (3)	1 (3)	
PEMBROKE	5	4	1	0				15	6	3
BRECON	*	*	1	12				5	3	
RADNOR										
MEIRIONNYDD	2			1 (6)						
CAERNARFON	20	1						5	3	
Bardsey		1		1				18	18	
ANGLESEY	2	2	3	1				49	1	

*Up to nine came to gardens in nine towns or villages during the first winter period.

GWENT: 50 reports but in the 1st winter period only five related to more than 10 birds. The largest gathering was a flock of 45 in the Monnow valley north of Osbaston. The Monnow valley held flocks of 18 on 6th March and 25 birds on 28th March. In the 2nd winter period max. flock size was only 15; **GOWER:** There was a flock of c. 20 at Cimla in Jan; **CEREDIGION:** In the first winter period only small numbers were seen with three in both a Trisant garden and at RSPB Ynys-hir in January the highest counts. In the second winter period seen from 20th Oct at only five locations with two at both Pond yr Oerfa on 24th Oct and Frongoch College farm, Aberystwyth on 7th Dec the highest counts. A very poor year for this species; **BRECON:** most records were of one or two birds but some of six to eight birds with a flock of 10 at Hay on 2nd April and 20 at Brecon on 8th Jan; **MONTGOMERY:** One was on a feeder at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 8th Nov.

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

LLINOS WERDD

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Many counties, including **GWENT**, **RADNOR** and **BRECON**, noted declines due either to severe winter weather or *Trichomonas gallinae* (trichomonosis) infection.

GWENT: Only four reports of flocks of 20 or more, one of these being of 52 at Llandeudaud in late Dec; **E. GLAMORGAN:** The highest counts in the 1st winter period included 20 at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm on 15th Jan and 35 there on 15th Feb. Post-breeding there were 22 on Flat Holm on 23rd Aug. The highest counts in late autumn comprised 20 at Cwm Nash on 1st Oct, 45 at Lavernock Pt on 11th and 60 there on 14th, 20 at Rumney Great Wharf on 20th and 38 on Flat Holm on 27th; **GOWER:** 35 at Rhossili Down on 21st Feb and a large flock of ca.100 gathered at dusk at Blackpill on 4th Dec; **CARMARTHEN:** Declines were noted. There were 20 at Llyn Llech Owain on 8th Jan; **CEREDIGION:** 50 fed on rose hips at Tanybwlich on 3rd Nov and 35 were in a Capel Seion garden on 16th Aug; **BRECON:** The regular Llangasty churchyard flock numbered 35 on 9th Jan but the largest flock elsewhere in both winters was 17 in Brecon; **CAERNARFON:** The highest mainland count was 20 at Caerhun on 3rd April. Autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 66 on 28th Oct with 61 on 15th and 27th Oct; **ANGLESEY:** A flock of c.50 were at Ger-y-Parc Brynteg from 12th Nov to 23rd Dec.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

NICO

(C) Resident, summer visitor and passage migrant; possibly winter visitor in small numbers. Population is increasing.

Flocks of 50 or more included: **GWENT**: 150 at Llandeudon on 18th April and in the late summer/autumn three flocks of 100 – at Wentwood, NWR Uskmouth and Sluice Farm, up to 155 at Peterstone Wentlooge and 180 at Mathern Oaze; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 50 at Whitchurch on 16th Jan, 50 at Lavernock Pt on 10th Oct, 60 there on 11th, 100 on 13th and an impressive 1,570 on 14th, 50 at The Dell, Fairwater on 18th and c.50 at Lavernock Pt on 18th, 80 at Rudry Common on 1st Nov and 140 at Lavernock Pt on 2nd Nov; **GOWER**: 60 at Oxwich NNR on 1st Jan, 74 at Nitten Field, Mewslade on 30th Aug and 100+ there on 1st Sept; **CARMARTHEN**: 150 on knapweed heads at Garn, Carmel NNR on 22nd Sept and c.80 in larches between Pwll and Burry Port on 26th Nov; **CEREDIGION**: 100 at both Llanrhystud and Blaenpennal, in the autumn and 50 at a feeder at Pant Lliidiart, Trisant was a good count for January; **BRECON**: A flock of 80 at Tŷ Mawr by the end of July and 120 by 27th Aug and 50 at Mynydd Fforest on 16th July; **CAERNARFON**: 60+ on the Little Orme on 6th Oct. Spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 130 on 18th April and 154 on the 27th, while autumn passage peaked at 150 on 12th Oct; **ANGLESEY**: 68 were at Carmel Head on 16th April, 100+ on thistles SW of Amlwch Port on 5th Sept and from 50 to 200 birds at Ger-y-Parc, Brynteg between 9th Sept and 29th Oct.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

PILA GWYRDD

(C) An increasing breeding species; numerous winter visitor and passage migrant.

GWENT: There was evidence of breeding at five sites; **E. GLAMORGAN**: One breeding record from near Rudry village; **GOWER**: Bred at three sites; **CARMARTHEN**: Bred at two sites, with a party of 30 mainly juvenile birds seen at Cynnant on 9th Aug; **PEMBROKE**: 35 were at Bosherton on 11th Jan and up to 30 birds visiting feeders at a garden in Fishguard until mid July; **BRECON**: Noted as present in many traditional breeding areas, but a poor season; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Probable or proven breeding at over 30 locations; **CAERNARFON**: Bred at four sites.

In the 1st winter period, notable counts were: **GWENT**: 140-150 at Osbaston, 60-70 at two other sites in the Monnow Valley and 60 at Itton, all in Jan with a flock of 180 at Osbaston in Feb and one of 100 at Mynydd Du in March; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 60 at Forest Farm NR on 5th Jan and at St Mellons Business Park on 6th Jan and 80 there on 7th and 12th, 40 at Mynydd Caerau, Maesteg on 24th Jan, 80 at St Mellons Business Park on 2nd Feb and 50 there on 11th, 100 at Coed Meirig, Gellideg on 16th Feb, 70 at Bute East dock feeder canal on 22nd Feb, 100 at Gethin, Merthyr on 24th Feb, and in early spring 80 at Coed Meirig on 1st April and 60 at Pen-y-Graig on 12th April; **GOWER**: 50 at Oxwich Marsh on 1st Jan, **BRECON**: 80 to 100 on 16th Jan at Llangasty; **ANGLESEY**: Spring passage at South Stack lasted from 18th March to 16th June, with a maximum count of 28 on 28th May. 55 on 2nd Jan at Penrhos CP,

In the second winter period: **E. GLAMORGAN**: 750 flew over E at Dunraven on 30th Sep, and 510 at Cwm Nash on 1st Oct; **GOWER**: 50 headed south-east at Rhossili on 2nd Oct; **CEREDIGION**: 120 at RSPB Ynys-hir throughout December was the highest

count; **BRECON**: The largest flocks were 200 along the Taff Trail, Talybont Forest, on 16th Oct, 40 at Battle Hill on 25th and 60 at Brynich on 31st; **CAERNARFON**: Counts of 30-50+ between June and Dec were at Ty'n-y-parc near Rhiw, at Llanbedrog, near Pensychnant and at Morfa Madryn. Autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 23 on 12th Oct.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

LLINOS

(C) Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red-listed.

Counts of 100 or more in the first winter period were: **GWENT**: 180 at Osbaston on 2nd Jan declining to 125 in late Jan, 250 at Clytha on 21st Jan, 300 at Pen-y-lan on 1st – 2nd April; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 450 at Mynydd Baeden, Maesteg on 2nd Jan, 150 at Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Maesteg on 4th March and 200 at Mynydd Baeden on 19th March; **GOWER**: 200+ at the Viel Rhossili on 19th Jan and 185 at Llanrhidian Marsh on 28th Feb; **CEREDIGION**: 300 at Cardigan Island farm park Gwbert in Jan, 100 at Glynarthen in February.

Large autumn and second winter period counts were **GWENT**: 100 at Osbaston on 13th Aug increasing to 340 on 21st Aug and then declining, 100 at Pen-y-lan on 15th Sept and 11th Dec, 200 at St. Brides on 18th Sept, 170 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 23rd Sept and 115-165 on four dates in early Oct; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 1,000 at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm on 16th Sep, 160 at Cwm Nash on 1st Oct, 100 at Kenfig Pool on 5th Oct, max. 300 at Lavernock Pt from 11th to 14th Oct, 130 at Mynydd Ty-talwyn on 17th Oct and 150 at Gilfach, Maesteg on 23rd Oct; then 100 at Lavernock Pt on 2nd Nov; **GOWER**: 250 on saltmarsh between Crofty and Pwll-y-froga on 25th Aug, 620 between Mewslade and Rhossili on 2nd Nov and 150 at Whiteford Saltmarsh on 19th Nov; **PEMBROKE**: The largest counts were up to 250 at Pen Anglas on many dates during the winter period and 150 on Dale Airfield 2nd Oct; **CEREDIGION**: 100 at Croeslan in July and at Henllan in Sept; **BRECON**: Oilseed rape crops attracted the largest flocks in autumn, with 50 at Brynlicci, Pennorth, on 17th June increasing steadily to a max. 270 on 8th Aug, 200+ at Courtyplythyn Farm during Sept and 180 on Llangorse Common on 12th Sept; **RADNOR**: 250 were near Rhayader on 18th Aug and 220 at Clyro on 26th Aug; **CAERNARFON**: Autumn passage on Bardsey began on 24th July, peaking in September, with 445 on the 15th, 472 on the 24th and 655 on the 30th; **ANGLESEY**: 150 at Cemlyn on 31st July, flocks of 50, 120 and 140 at South Stack in Aug/early Sept, 100 on The Range on 19th Sept and 500 at Aberffraw on 13th Oct.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

(A) Scarce breeding species, now apparently confined to Caernarfon; elsewhere a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red-listed.

All records: **CEREDIGION**: Three on a feeder in a Pontrhydfendigaid garden on 25th March; **CAERNARFON**: Three at Glan-y-môr Elias on 6th Jan and one at Morfa Madryn on 23rd March, one at Bodafon Fields, Llandudno from 14th to 16th Jan and one at Fort Belan on 9th April. One bird was on Bardsey on 19th April, with another or the same bird in song the following day. In the breeding season, there were 10 in Nant Ffrancon on 18th April and two at Blaen Nant on 28th April, with a single in Cwm Idwal on 18th May and 3rd July, also three at Dinorwig on 24th April and two near Mynydd

Llandegai on 14th May; **ANGLESEY**: Singles at Cemlyn on 8th April and 4th Nov; **DENBIGH**: Two at RSPB Conwy on 25th March.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

LLINOS BENGGOCH LEIAF

(C) Partial migrant, widely distributed as a breeding bird but probably declining. Passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers. Wales Red-listed.

Breeding records: **GWENT**: Probably bred at 11 widely scattered sites; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Probable breeding at Llysant (tetrad ST09L) and display observed at Gethin Woods on 1st May; **GOWER**: Bred or probably bred at four sites; **PEMBROKE**: A family group at Llethermawr Plantation on 14th July; **CEREDIGION**: Breeding season records came from many localities mainly in the uplands in young forestry plantations and on the fringes of the larger boggy areas (Cors Caron, Cors Fochno); **BRECON**: Song and pairs widespread and fledged juveniles seen at Castle Drake and Coity Wood; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Bred at >20 locations; **CAERNARFON**: A family party with at least 3 young was seen at Cefn Madryn on 1st July and nesting was recorded at Coedty and at Bangor Brewery Fields .

Large counts in the 1st winter period were: **GWENT**: 110 between Hafodrynys and Pontypool on 4th Jan and 60 at Llanwenarth on 22nd Jan; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 30 at Llan/Lisvane Reservoir on 18th Jan; **BRECON**: 50+ at Usk Reservoir.

Spring passage: **CAERNARFON**: Passage on Bardsey peaked at 54 on 18th April, 76 on 19th, 97 on 20th and 69 on the 21st April, A flock of 80 flew west at Morfa Madryn on 11th April; **ANGLESEY**: At South Stack, spring passage lasted from 23rd March to the end of July with maximum count of 83 on 10th April. 109 were at Ynys-y-fydlyn on 10th April.

In the 2nd winter period the largest flocks were: **GWENT**: 75 on passage at Peterstone Wentlooge on 8th Oct, 50 at NWR on 14th Oct, 30 at Hendre Woods on 22nd Nov and 26th Dec and 100 at Cwm-y-Glyn on 30th Nov; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 30 at Lavernock Pt by Church House on 13th Oct; **CEREDIGION**: 60 at Coed Dolgoed on 6th Dec; **BRECON**: 40 in Llanwrthwl village in late September, 200 migrants at Cwmgwdi (Beacons) on 21st Oct and 30 at Carno Forest on 13th Nov; **RADNOR**: A continued increase was noted, with many more at bird tables. There were 120 in Radnor Forest in Jan and 110 at Rhosgoch in Dec; **CAERNARFON**: 30 were in Bodlondeb Wood, Conwy on 18th Dec. Autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 35 on 12th Oct.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

LLINOS BENGGOCH

(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list.

A number of records of this species were submitted to the WRP. The Panel has been reviewing this species, and a paper setting out identification criteria and listing recent accepted records will be published in due course on the WOS – WRP website.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

GYLFIN GROES

(C) An increasing resident species although numbers fluctuate; occasional irruptive immigrant.

Large counts (30+) included: **GWENT**: 30 at Carno on 22nd Jan, and 30 at Beacon Hill on 23rd Oct, 20-30 at Hendre Woods in Nov/Dec and 40 at Wentwood on 31st Dec; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 45+ in Garwnant forestry on 28th April probably included family groups, 50 in the same area on 13th July. Some autumn movement noted, with 73 at Dunraven Park on 14th Oct, 47 over Lavernock Pt on 15th Oct and 32 over Lavernock Pt on 23rd Oct. In the 2nd winter period 78 at Gilfach, Maesteg on 12th Nov with 72 there on 19th Nov and 42 on 28th Nov, 35 at Garwnant on 10th Dec, 39 at Darren-y-Bannau and 35 at Mynydd Caerau on 17th Nov, 34 at Y Bwlwarcu on 27th Dec and 42 at Llwynypia Mountain on 28th Dec; **GOWER**: c.50 at Rheola Forest on 9th Nov and 53 at Cwm Philip on 4th Dec; **CEREDIGION**: 50 at Coed Dolgoed in Feb; **BRECON**: 40 at Garth Bank on 8th July. Numbers peaked in Oct/Nov with 25-45 on Battle Hill on 25th Oct, 70 in Talybont Forest on 11th Nov, 40 in the Clydach valley (Aber) on 20th and 40 in Tack Wood on 28th; **RADNOR**: 250 were in Radnor Forest in Jan; **MONTGOMERY**: 52 in a flock on the Myrddin forestry track at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; **CAERNARFON**: 40 were at Rhyd-y-clafdy on 30th Aug with 60 at the Great Orme on 15th Oct and 56 on 20th Oct; **ANGLESEY**: Many autumn records of small numbers but 30 at Carmel Head on 1st Oct, 54 flew over Cemlyn and 50 over Carmel Head on 16th Oct and 35 over Point Llynas on 22nd Oct.

Breeding records: **GWENT**: Some evidence of breeding at St James Forest, Hendre Woods, Chepstow Park Wood, Beacon Hill, Ysgryd Fach, Bryn Bach and Five Paths; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Bred at Craig-y-Llyn, Darren-y-Bannau, Maesteg (3 pairs), Garw Forest, Mynydd Caerau, Maesteg, Mynydd Bwllfa, and Tarren-y-Gilfran, and probable or possible at three other sites; **GOWER**: Bred at Brynlllefrith Plantation, Cwmgwrach and Blaengwrach and probably bred at Hirfynydd and Crynant; **CARMARTHEN**: Breeding confirmed at Gweunydd Cochion and Abergorlech; **CEREDIGION**: Probably bred at a wide number of locations with records of singing males at many sites and juveniles recorded at Nant yr Arian, Bryn Du, Bryn Glas, Clywedog plantation, Allt-Y-Crib Talybont, Cross Inn forest and The Arch; **BRECON**: Bred at Devil's Staircase, in Ystradfellte and Carno Forest and at Llaneglwys Forest with families at Glasfynydd (two sites), Cwm Dyfnant, Coed Trallwm and Crychan Forest; **MEIRIONNYDD**: Birds were present at 10 or more sites in the breeding season with a family party at Llety-wyn; **CAERNARFON**: There was evidence of breeding in Beddgelert Forest and one was singing at Hen Bant on 3rd July.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

LLINOS GOCH

(A) A scarce migrant, on WRP list.

A male, probably a first year bird, at Sudbrook **GWENT** on 21st June was the first county record. In **PEMBROKE** a single immature male was on Ramsey on 13th July; one on Skokholm from 2nd to 11th Sept was trapped & ringed and an immature / female was on Skomer from 29th Sept – 1st Oct. A singing adult male, apparently on territory at Cerrig-mân, **ANGLESEY** from 29th May to 8th June.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

COCH Y BERLLAN

(D) A fairly numerous resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands, other than in some areas of recent afforestation. Now thought to be declining. Unusual on the islands. Wales Red-listed.

Highest counts were **GWENT**: 25 in Wentwood on 9th April and a flock of 13 near Rogiet on 26th Aug ; **E. GLAMORGAN**: 16 at Darren-y-Bannau, Maesteg on 17th Dec. Regular at some garden feeders; **PEMBROKE**: 20 at Llangloffan Fen on 23rd Sept; **CAERNARFON**: c. 15 in Beddgelert Forest on 14th Sept; **ANGLESEY**: 19 were at Point Lynas during November and 12 at Parc Trwyn-du on 9th Nov.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

GYLFINBRAFF

(C) Resident in small numbers in lowland areas, principally in east Wales and in the Dolgellau area of Meirionnydd. Formerly scarcer. Some evidence of small-scale immigration in winter. Wales Amber-listed.

All records were: **GWENT**: 13 were ringed near Chepstow, 31 at Tintern and nine near Monmouth; up to six were seen in Lower Minnetts Wood near Rogiet from late March to early July and up to five in the same period at nearby Slade Wood, with singles at Penallt on 21st Jan and 11th June and at Itton on 26th Jan; **E. GLAMORGAN**: Only two reports, of one flying over with Chaffinches at Dunraven Park on 14th Oct and one at Lavernock Pt on 15th Oct; **CEREDIGION**: One was in a garden at Pontrhydygroes on 18th and 19th Jan. Possibly small numbers may breed around the Devil's Bridge/ Pontrhydygroes area with small numbers or singletons occasionally appearing at garden feeders over the years; **RADNOR**: Reported from seven sites, three in Jan, two in May and one in Aug and Dec; **MEIRIONNYDD**: 14 in Llanelltyd churchyard on 17th Jan, 33 on 27th Jan and up to five on various dates from Jan to March and again on two dates in Nov. There were seven in Maentwrog churchyard on 28th Feb and five there on 22nd Dec, four at St Mary's Churchyard/Marion Mawr car park, Dolgellau on 17th March, seven on the 25th and 27th March and one on 8th April. A male was at Frongoch on 6th May; possibly breeding in the area; **CAERNARFON**: Records came as usual from Llanbedr-y-cennin where 10 were seen on 2nd Jan, five on 9th, six on 23rd and seven on 24th with three on 24th Feb, and from Caerhun where there were four on 22nd Jan and two on 3rd April. Elsewhere three were at Pentrefelin on 23rd March and a male in a garden at Plas Heulog, Llanfairfechan on 14th Oct. A male on Bardsey on 23rd March was trapped and ringed, re-trapped on 26th and last seen 7th April.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

BRAS YR EIRA

(B) Regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: A female was present at West Pill from 30th Oct to 1st Nov; **E. GLAMORGAN**: The remains of one that had been Peregrine prey were found at Werfa/Mynydd Llangeinwyr in Jan. One was at Newton, Porthcawl from 14th to 24th Oct and another at Pink Bay on 1st Nov, three at Sker Pt on 2nd Nov and then two on Flat Holm on 20th Nov, the first record for the island; **GOWER**: Singles were at Rhossili on 3rd Nov, Salthouse Point on 7th and 10th, at Wernffrwd and at Broughton Bay on 11th Nov and at Rhossili on 24th Nov; **PEMBROKE**: Two were at Traeth Llyfyn on 22nd Jan and a single on Dale Airfield from 29th Sept to 1st Oct then another on 24th Nov with up

to three on Fishguard Outer Breakwater from 10th Oct to 11th Dec. Singles on St. David's Head on 25th Oct, 10th Nov and 12th Dec with two on 9th Dec and one at St. Govan's Head on 17th Oct. Singles too on Ramsey Island on 20th and 27th April and four on 12th Dec; **CEREDIGION**: Singles were reported from a feeder at Nant yr Arian on 22nd Jan, at Ynyslas on 20th Oct and at New Quay on 22nd Oct; **BRECON**: An adult female was at Drygarn Fawr on 4th Nov, a probable male below Fan Gyhrych (Cnewr) on 19th and a male at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad on 5th Dec; **RADNOR**: One or two were in Radnor Forest in Nov/Dec; **MEIRIONNYDD**: One was on the Aran ridge at Aran Benllyn on 12th Feb, two on the Aran ridge path, Llanuwchllyn on 20th Feb and a male on the summit ridge of Arenig Fawr on 21st March. Four were near the summit of Arenig Fawr on 14th Nov; **CAERNARFON**: Singles were on Bardsey on 5th March and 8th March and on Carnedd Dafydd on 16th April. In the second winter period, three flew over the Great Orme on 15th Oct with two on 16th Oct and on 24th and 27th Oct. Three were at Morfa Conwy on 30th Nov and five at Glan-y-môr Elias on 20th Dec. Two were seen on Bardsey on 14th, 26th and 28th Oct with singles on 16th Oct, on 5th, 19th, 21st and 22nd Nov and on 22nd Dec; **ANGLESEY**: One at South Stack on 27th March. In the second winter period, two between Cemlyn and Carmel Head on 22nd Oct, three at Cemlyn on 1st Nov and five there on 4th Nov, a male at South Stack on 11th Nov, five at Rhoscolyn on 13th Nov, a male and female at Rhosneigr Beach on 14th Nov, one at Llyn Coron on 20th and one at Point Lynas on 16th Dec; **DENBIGH**: Two at RSPB Conwy on 2nd Dec.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

(A) *An uncommon but regular passage migrant in small numbers, especially in autumn, and an occasional winter resident. Wales Amber-listed.*

In **E. GLAMORGAN** one was near Sker Farm on 23rd and 24th March; **GOWER**: A flock recorded in late 2010 was relocated on 2nd Jan, with 18 birds in fields above Longhole Cliffs with 36 there on 29th Jan. 22 were in fields to the W above Common Cliff on 12th Feb with 12 there on 9th March; singles at Rhossili on 20th March and in the second winter period, near Paviland Farm on 12th Nov; **PEMBROKE**: The only early year records were of one at St. David's Head on 12th March and one flying over Ramsey on 7th April. One was on Dale Airfield on 22nd & 23rd Sept, two on St. David's Head on 24th with three there on 27th, singles on Dale Airfield on 1st Oct, Strumble Head on 7th, at St. David's Head on 15th & 25th with two there on 20th then a flock of 18 at Dale Airfield on 23rd. Singles on Dale Airfield and at St. David's on 6th Nov and two at the Deer Park on 17th; **CEREDIGION**: One was at Llanon from 16th Jan to 19th Feb. In autumn, two here on 14th Oct, three on 15th to 17th Oct and one on 26th Oct; also one was at Mwnt on 9th Oct, two there on 16th Oct and one on 23rd Oct; **MEIRIONNYDD**: A probable flew south over Llandanwg beach car park on 12th Nov; **CAERNARFON**: On Bardsey, one on 21st and 23rd Feb and on 14th March, with eight on 15th to 16th; there were daily records to 25th, though numbers decreased as the week progressed, singles on 27th and 29th, 1-3 birds on 15 days in April with the final spring record on 1st May. Elsewhere, one flew south of the Llyfni estuary on 19th March, two flew W over the Great Orme on 10th April and two were in a field near Fort Belan on 16th April. Most autumn records came from Bardsey, with singles on 14th and 30th Sept, six singles in October, with two on 20th, singles on 4th to 6th Nov, with four on 10th and one on 12th. The only mainland record was one heard over Bonc Cottage, Foryd on 14th Nov; **ANGLESEY**: One at the Cefni estuary and two at Hen Borth on 1st Jan, two at

Mynachdy on 2nd Jan, one at Malltraeth on 22nd March, one at South Stack on 3rd April, two at Carmel Head on 9th April, one to four at Cemlyn on many dates in March, April and 1st to 2nd May with 10 on 3rd April (one heard singing). In the 2nd winter period singles were at The Range on four dates in Sept with two on 30th, four at Mynachdy on 28th Sept and five there on 1st Oct, five at Carmel Head on 1st and 2nd Oct with four on 3rd and two on 9th, five at Mynachdy on 9th Oct, 12 from 16th to 20th Oct, ten on 27th Oct and ten between Cemlyn and Carmel Head on 22nd Oct and four on this stretch on 28th Oct, one at Cemlyn on 1st Nov and one at Carmel Head on 13th.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

BRAS MELYN

(C) *Declining as a resident breeding species over large parts of Wales. Wales Red-listed.*

Breeding summary: **GWENT:** Records of 18 singing males and three pairs but only one proven breeding record; **E. GLAMORGAN:** No breeding records but singing males and pairs at four sites; **GOWER:** Bred at Mewslade and Harding Downs, with one to five singing males at 17 other sites; **CARMARTHEN:** A pair visited garden feeders at Isfryn Close, Burry Port from 26th May until at least 7th June. Breeding was confirmed near Llyn Brianne, Cynnant and Cilycwm (2 pairs); **PEMBROKE:** The only high count was 12 at Eglwyswrw on 3rd March; **CEREDIGION:** Birds were seen in 13 locations with breeding possible at seven sites; **BRECON:** 48 singing males or pairs were found, evenly split between agricultural and common-land – 13 in Felinfach farmland, five singing males in SO12W (Tretower), seven in SO12X (Cwmdu) and three in SO12Y (Blaenau-fry); also three singing males in 'ffridd' on the MOD Ranges above Maesybeddau Farm (Llanfihangel nant Bran), two or three around Trallong Common, three males/pairs at Heol-las top (Cathedine), and two on Comin Coch; **RADNOR:** A continued increase and spread in areas in and around mixed farming was noted; **MEIRIONNYDD:** A family party near Llanaber and birds present in breeding season at Bryn Castell and Cwm Cywarch; **CAERNARFON:** Ten were singing in the Clegyr area on 1st May and pairs were noted at Hendre Hywel, Prenteg and at Rachub, with one to three birds seen at six other sites.

The highest counts were **GWENT:** 12 at Dingestow Court on 30th Jan and 16 at Pen-y-lan, Bassaleg on 11th Dec; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 40 on the sacrificial crop at the Ty'n-y-Caeau winter feeding scheme on 2nd Jan and 15 on 4th March; ten were at St. Nicholas on 12th Feb; **GOWER:** 21 were at the Knave/Deborah's Hole on 13th Nov; **BRECON:** 30 arrived at duck feeders at Bedw Arion (Newbridge-on-Wye), but unfortunately by 24th, 17 of these were found dead; after cleaning and disinfection of feeders, numbers rose again to 25 by 4th March; **MEIRIONNYDD:** One large count of 70 in a game crop near Penrhyndeudraeth on 19th Jan; **CAERNARFON:** The largest count was 27 at Ceunant on 23rd Dec; **ANGLESEY:** Monthly maxima at the Island's Yellowhammer hot-spot, Ger-y-Parc, Brynteg, were 77 in Jan, 92 in Feb, 59 in March, four in April, six in June (four adults and two juveniles), one in July and Sept, two in Oct, 26 in Nov and 35 in Dec. Birds (max 14) came to feeders from 4th Nov to end Dec at Pencefn, Llanddona.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

BRAS Y CYRS

(C) A fairly common resident breeding species, mainly in waterside habitats; evidence of a small autumn emigration. Wales Amber-listed.

GWENT: Four singing males and a bird nest-building were noted near Rogiet, three pairs bred in the Monmouth area and breeding also reported on Mynydd Machen Common and by Pen y Fan Pond but no survey at NWR; **E. GLAMORGAN:** One confirmed breeding record but five pairs at four sites and singing males at six other sites; **GOWER:** Bred at Clyne Common and Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir and probably bred in at least two other sites; **CARMARTHEN:** During the breeding season 10+ were at Ffos-las and birds were noted at nine other sites; **BRECON:** 37 pairs or singing males were found in 37 tetrads, with concentrations at Llangorse (12 males), Bronffynnon/ Camddwr (6), and several pairs in the upper Afon Hepste valley, Y Gors and at Pantyllyn; **MEIRIONNYDD:** Singing males were at six sites and breeding was confirmed at Cloddia near Llidiardau and at Brynchrug; **ANGLESEY:** Singing male at Rhosneigr and a pair bred at Cemlyn with several birds present at Cors Goch, Malltraeth Marsh, Valley Wetlands, Llyn Cefni, Cors Bodeilio and Cors Erdreiniog.

High counts in the first winter period were: **GWENT:** 10-11 at NWR on several dates; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 22 at Mynydd Bach, Maesteg on 1st Jan, 10 at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm on 2nd Jan, 12 at garden feeders in Bridgend on 26th Jan and 16 there on 9th Feb, 11 at Gilfach, Maesteg on 28th Jan; **CARMARTHEN:** Up to seven were at the sewage works at Kidwelly Quay in the 1st winter period; **PEMBROKE:** 14 were at Freshwater West on 7th March and 10 at Camrose on 23rd Jan; **BRECON:** The habit of going to garden feeders is increasing; **MEIRIONNYDD:** 70 at Hir Ynys near Penrhyndeudraeth on 19th Jan; **CAERNARFON:** 11 above Llanaelhaearn on 11th Feb; **DENBIGH:** 12+ at RSPB Conwy on 7th Jan.

Post-breeding, 10 at Kenfig saltmarsh, **E. GLAMORGAN** on 31st Jul; six at garden feeder at Gorseinon, **GOWER** in mid June.

In the 2nd winter period: **GWENT:** NWR was again the most important site with up to 20 counted on various dates; **E. GLAMORGAN:** 10 at Rudry Common on 17th Oct, 12 at Rumney Great Wharf on 17th Nov, 14 at Gilfach, Maesteg and 15 at Rumney Great Wharf on 28th Nov, 10 at the latter site on 2nd Dec, and 10 at garden feeders in Bridgend on 14th Dec; **GOWER:** Max flock size of 11; **PEMBROKE:** 10 at Marloes Mere on 6th Nov and at Neath Farm on 25th Oct; **BRECON:** 10 fed in Carno Forest on the Brecon/Gwent border in early Nov, this flock increasing to 50+ by the end of the year. The largest flock elsewhere was 15 near Ystradgynlais; **RADNOR:** 55 were at a roost at Glasbury in Dec.

Escapes

A selection of the more interesting reports of escaped birds in Wales is given below:

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

E. GLAMORGAN: Max 2 were reported on Roath Park lake in Feb, Mar, April and May; **CAERNARFON:** A male in Bangor harbour on 31st Dec .

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus*

ANGLESEY: One on Llyn Traffwll on the 22nd and 23rd Feb.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

GWENT: A single bird was present at NWR from 18th March to 15th May; **CARMARTHEN:** There was one at Penclacwydd from 17th – 31st Jan; **DENBIGH:** One at RSPB Conwy on 8th Feb.

SNOW GOOSE *Aythya caerulescens*

PEMBROKE: As in the previous two years, two were on the Teifi all year, also seen at the Nevern Estuary. Another bird was at Llys-y-frân Res. on 8th March; **CAERNARFON:** One flew S at the Conwy estuary on 13th May; **DENBIGH:** One at RSPB Conwy on 13th May.

LESSER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis parvipes*

BRECON: One flew into Ffordd Fawr with 2 Cape Shelduck to join Mute Swan grazing oilseed rape on 10th February 2011. This was probably the bird seen at various locations between Jan and April 2010, described as Taverner's Cackling Goose.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

E. GLAMORGAN: One was reported at Ogmere Est on 16th, 24th and 28th Nov.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

E. GLAMORGAN: There was 1 at Ogmere rivermouth on 9th Jan.

AUSTRALIA/CAPE SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadornoides/ Tadorna cana*

BRECON: Up to four visited several sites along the Wye and Llynfi corridors. Unlike 2010, there was no proven breeding attempt. A pair, sometimes with a third adult, was at Brechfa Pool from 27th April to 3rd June. A male there from 18th June – 9th July might have indicated the female was on eggs. However, two pairs were there on 16th July.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

E. GLAMORGAN: Max 3 were reported on Caerphilly Castle Moat in all months except July; **CARMARTHEN:** Two were present at Sandy W. P. throughout the year. A Neotropical species.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

CARMARTHEN: A male was present throughout the year in the Old Castle Pond/Sandy W.P. area. A North American species.

CHILOE WIGEON *Anas sibilatrix*

CARMARTHEN: A drake was seen at Penclacwydd on 8th March. A South American species.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

GWENT: A male was seen at Govilon on 22nd and 24th Dec.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

GWENT: One was reported from Llanhennock on 7th June.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

CEREDIGION: A 4th year bird summered around the north of the county. The WRP considered it to be an escaped bird; **BRECON:** An adult complete with jesses and bells was in the upper Irfon valley on 14th July and 16th August.

HARRIS HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*

BRECON: An escaped falconer's bird was recorded in the Brecon area between 24th October and 26th November. It was seen near Brecon Hospital on several dates, at Dorlangoch and by the A40 at Cefnbrynich Farm.

SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug*

E. GLAMORGAN: One was seen and photographed at Rumney Great Wharf on 26th May; **ANGLESEY:** A tame falconer's bird, wearing jesses, was seen at Cemlyn on 4th May.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo*

GWENT: A single bird, presumably a falconry escapee, but obviously more than capable of fending for itself, since it was sitting on the half-eaten carcass of a Jackdaw, roosting alongside the chimney of a building on Charles Street, in Newport City Centre, on 9th Feb; **BRECON:** The escaped individual remained in the Sennybridge area throughout the year. It was heard calling at both ends of the year, and seen in Defynnog and Sennybridge gardens and allowing close approach in January - March. It seems likely that food continues to be put out for it which has strengthened the bond between it, the locality and villagers.

A report on bird ringing in Wales during 2011

PETER HOWLETT

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff. CF10 3NP

INTRODUCTION

This is the 24th annual report on bird ringing in Wales. A total of 42,500 full grown and 16,648 *pulli* were ringed in 2011. Despite the extreme weather at the end of 2010 and early days of 2011 this is only a little down on the record total achieved last year and is still the second highest total by some margin.

After the rather extreme weather experienced in the last two winters it was a relief for the weather to get back to normal – normal for the recent past at any rate. The weather followed the now familiar pattern of being dry and mild in early spring and then going to pot during the summer with above average rainfall in July and August. The year ended on a very mild note, which will no doubt have benefitted much of our wildlife.

METHOD OF ENQUIRY AND RESPONSE

As is now customary the annual totals were received electronically direct from the BTO. It has been made clear before that although this electronic system makes for a very complete set of totals and avoids the need for ringers to send in their totals twice it does remove personal contact from the process. Once again there is little indication from the totals as to whether an increase is due to increased effort from one ringer or many and the same is true for any decreases.

A complete list of ringers was not received from the BTO for 2011 so the list of 'A' ringers and groups remains the same as last year. Apologies to any ringer whose name does not make the list, the omission is not intentional.

THE RINGING TOTALS

Even though the number of adult birds ringed this year is down on the 2010 record it is still the second highest by some 9,000 birds and, despite the huge number of record totals set last year, there were 22 this year, 21 for adults and one for *pulli*. There were also three species making their first appearance in the ringing report; Red Grouse, Corncrake and Snow Bunting. Please bear in mind that all may have been ringed in Wales prior to 1988 when this report was first produced.

As usual the record totals are a mixture of species which have been targeted such as Woodcock (711 – the total goes ever higher!), Skylark (148), Sand Martin (754), Pied Wagtail (370) and Hawfinch (175). All these require a specific effort to catch and are often a result of special projects. Others represent luck, perhaps particularly with wader ringing, when good catches – either in mist nets or cannon nets – cannot be guaranteed. This year saw a good range of species caught with notable totals for Sanderling (65, previous best only three), Bar-tailed Godwit (33, previous best only four) and Greenshank (11, previous best just six).

Then there are those which appear to indicate that a species is doing particularly well. So the 2,808 Blue Tit *pulli*, the 2,278 Chiffchaff, 1,547 blackcap, 2,648 Sedge Warbler,

2,180(!) Siskin, 329 Lesser Redpoll and 367 Bullfinch ringed could be taken as indicating that these species at least fared well in 2011, despite the hard weather of the previous winter. Indeed this correlates rather nicely with the BTO's Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) results for 2011 which show that the populations of all these species increased with some, like Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Bullfinch showing as much as a 25-30% increase. The latter is perhaps surprising as it is a very sedentary species and might be thought of as one likely to suffer in cold weather.

Despite this encouraging list of species which did well in 2011 there are resident species which are particularly vulnerable to hard weather and indeed for the most part this is reflected in the 2011 totals. Willow Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Wren, Robin and Reed Bunting all decreased by between 15-25% with Willow Tit faring particularly badly with a 42% decrease. The BBS also showed declines of 12-20% for these species. Another species hard hit by the cold weather was Cetti's Warbler, the total for 2011 is 38% down on 2010, there is no corresponding BBS figure as the species does not feature due to its scarcity. Having said that the total for Reed Bunting (517) is still the third highest, despite a 26% decrease on 2010.

Like the Bullfinch, one other species, Dunnock, bucked this trend by setting a new record total of 731, this despite BBS indicating a 22% decline in Wales. Another BTO survey, the Constant Effort Site scheme (CES) provides the answer. It shows that those birds which did breed had extremely good productivity with very good survival amongst the young, with productivity up 52% on 2010. Totals affected by the return to relatively normal weather are those for the thrushes, all are well down on their 2010 totals and probably reflect that far fewer were in gardens during the autumn and winter of 2011.

There were a couple of notable omissions from this year's totals, for the first time since this report started there were no *pullus* Hen Harrier or Merlin ringed. Whether this is down to ringers being unable to get out or a failure of the breeding season where birds are ringed is not known – but given their recent declines it is a worrying event. On the plus side there were two broods of Osprey ringed, Wood Lark and Black Redstart made their first appearance in the *pullus* totals and Dartford Warbler its third (that despite the hard weather). There are only a handful of previous breeding records for Black Redstart.

There was an impressive array of unusual, scarce and rare species ringed during 2011. Species such as Red Grouse, Dotterel, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper, Cuckoo, Short-eared Owl and Snow Bunting are common enough but rarely get caught. Scarce and rare species caught during the year included: Corncrake, Sabine's Gull, Golden Oriole, Woodchat Shrike, Bearded Tit, Pallas's Warbler (2), Western Bonelli's Warbler, Barred Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Common Rosefinch and Lapland Bunting all featured.

RINGING PROJECTS

The Woodcock, Swallow and Rock Pipit projects continued apace as seen by the continued high totals – particularly so for Woodcock and Swallow. Increased effort was also maintained on Dipper. Coot in south Wales are now being colour-ringed. Also

keep an eye open for colour-ringed warblers in south Wales, Reed, Sedge and Cetti's Warblers are being colour-ringed at Cosmeston and Cardiff Bay as part of a PhD study.

PUBLICATIONS INVOLVING RINGING IN WALES

- Clark, R. (2012). Goldcliff Ringing Group annual report for 2011. Goldcliff Ringing Group. <http://www.gwentbirds.org.uk>
- Howlett, P.M. (2012). A Report on bird ringing in Glamorgan during 2011. *Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report*, No. 50, 2011, Glamorgan Bird Club.
- Howlett, P.M. (2011). A report on bird ringing in Wales during 2010. *Welsh Birds* Vol. 8 No. 2 2011 p225-238. Welsh Ornithological Society.

REFERENCES

- Risely, K., Massimino, D., Johnston, A., Newson, S.E., Eaton, M.A., Musgrove, A.J., Noble, D.G., Procter, D. & Baillie, S.R. 2012. *The Breeding Bird Survey 2011*. BTO Research Report 624. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford.
- Robinson, R.A. & Clark, J.A. (2012) The Online Ringing Report: Bird ringing in Britain & Ireland in 2011 BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>).
- Wernham, C.V., Toms, M.P., Marchant, J.H., Clark, J.A., Siriwardena, G.M. & Baillie, S.R. (eds). 2002. *The Migration Atlas: movements of birds of Britain and Ireland*. T. & A.D. Poyser, London.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following are all the ringers, ringing partnerships and ringing groups whose totals have contributed to this report:

Ashby, W., Ashwell, G.M., Austin, G.E., Avon, J.D., Bache, Shearwood & McShane, Binney, S.P., Birkhead, T.R., Blackburn, Leighton & Moores, Bull & Morgan, Bull, A.J., Burgess, M., Christmas & Christmas, Clevely, R.P., Coker, D.G., Conway, G.J., Cooksey, D.J., Cross, A.V., Anning, D., Dodd, Facey, R., S.G., Ferns, P.N., Foster, K.J., George, A.J., Greasley, D.N., Harris, A.B., Hemsley, K.J., Holmes, P.R., Hughes, M., Judson, N.S., Langford & Latham, Lewis, J.M.S., Lewis, T.W.G., Medland, R.D., Moon, S.J., Parry, C.J., Poole, R.W., Powell, N.B., Proll, D., Reed, J., Richards, J., Richardson, G., Roberts, G., Roberts, J.A.L., Robinson, A.A., Rock, P.J., Rowlands, S.G., Slater, F.M., Spence & Brenchley, Spittle, D.M., Stewart, B., Stratford, A., Taylor, A.M., Thomas, S.K., Tyler, S.J, U Bowen, U., Vafidis, J., Vaughan, I.P., Vaughton, K.C.

And the following ringing groups:

Bardsey Bird Observatory, East Dales R.G., Edward Grey Institute, Flat Holm R.G., Goldcliff R.G., Gower R.G., Kenfig R.G., Llangorse R.G., Merseyside R.G., Pembrokeshire R.G., SCAN R.G.

A fascinating selection with numerous recoveries of species which are rarely recovered, either ringed in the UK and found abroad or ringed abroad and found here. There have been tremendous advances in satellite and geolocator tracking in recent years, however, for most species ringing is still the only means of monitoring their movements, it is just rather more hit and miss as to whether you get results.

Age when ringed

1	pullus (= nestling or chick)	X	found dead
2	fully grown, year of hatching unknown	XF	found freshly dead or dying
3	hatched during calendar year of ringing	XL	found dead (not recent)
4	hatched before calendar year of ringing but exact year unknown	+	shot or intentionally killed by man
5	hatched during previous calendar year	+F	shot or intentionally killed by man- fresh
6	hatched before previous calendar year but exact year unknown	I	found sick or injured-not released
7	definitely hatched 2 years before year of ringing	SR	found sick or injured-released with ring
8	hatched more than 2 calendar years before year of ringing	V	alive and probably healthy, caught and released not by a ringer

U Unknown

FR52528	1	27-07-86	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	R	11-07-11	St Martin's, Scilly Isles
			208km SSW 24y 11m 14d

179

Storm Petrel

2513390	4	06-07-11	Point Lynas, Amlwch, Anglesey
	R	12-07-11	Inishtrahull, Donegal
			295km NW 0y 0m 6d

A very quick recovery, although non-breeding birds like this one are known to be very mobile.

Cormorant

5262461	1	18-06-11	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	X	26-12-11	Little Wakering, Essex
			380km ESE 0y 6m 8d
5262313	1	18-06-11	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	XF	09-11-11	Elmer Beach, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex
			366km SE 0y 4m 22d
5255633	1	19-06-10	Denny Island, Bristol Channel, Gwent
	VV	02-01-11	Carnsew Pool, Hayle Estuary, Cornwall
			237km SW 0y 6m 14d

A handful of the many recoveries received for this species giving an indication of how widely young Cormorants disperse from their natal area.

Shag

1171113	1	26-05-86	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	X	15-07-11	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
			0km 25y 1m 19d

Another very old bird, actually only four years off the record, so well into old age.

Little Egret

GC11769	1	13-06-09	Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, Gwynedd
	VV	26-10-09	Newtownards, Strangford Lough, Down 184km
NW 0y 4m 13d			
	VV	08-06-10	Malltraeth Bay, Anglesey 21km W 0y 11m
26d			
	VV	17-10-10	Newtownards, Strangford Lough, Down 184km
NW 1y 4m 4d			
	VV	24-01-11	Ards Aerodrome, Newtownards, Down
			184km NNW 1y 7m 11d
GR19715	1	05-06-11	Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, Gwynedd
	VV	19-11-11	Sprinkle Pill, Hook, Dyfed
			173km SSW 0y 5m 14d

Not quite as many recoveries for this species this year – and not as far flung.

Honey-buzzard

GN18656	1F	24-07-00	Frodesley Lane, Shropshire
	VV	12-08-06	Site Confidential, Cardiff area, Glamorgan
124km SSW 6y 0m 19d			
	VV	03-08-11	Site Confidential, Wales
			41km WSW 11y 0m 10d

This is the oldest Honey-buzzard known from the BTO scheme, although probably quite a long way from real old age.

Buzzard

GJ91269	1	12-06-88	Cilcain, Mold, Clwyd
	X	23-02-11	Star Farm, Llangynhafal, Clwyd
			5km 22y 8m 11d

A good age only 3 years off the oldest known from the BTO scheme.

Hobby

ES21677	1	27-07-10	Site Confidential, near New Radnor, Powys
	VV	11-06-11	Minsmere, Suffolk
			324km E 0y 10m 15d

One of only three long-distance recoveries within Britain reported during 2011. Not many are ringed each year so this sighting of a colour-ring is excellent news.

Oystercatcher

FV70337	4	21-08-85	Friskney, Lincolnshire
	R	01-10-11	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd
			283km W 26y 1m 10d
FC12633	1	23-06-91	Skomer Island, Dyfed
	XF	12-05-11	Skomer Island, Dyfed
			0km 19y 10m 19d
FB00441	1	07-06-00	Girlsta, Shetland
	R	15-12-01	Wig, near Bangor, Gwynedd 798km SSW 1y
			6m 8d
	R	01-10-11	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd
			796km SSW 11y 3m 24d
FP69948	1	23-06-05	Boreray, Western Isles
	R	19-10-08	Whiteford Sands, Gower, Glamorgan 702km
SSE 3y 3m 26d			
	XF	15-09-11	Cefn Sidan, Dyfed
			693km SSE 6y 2m 23d

A couple of old birds and also two giving an indication of the breeding areas of some of the Oystercatchers we see wintering in Wales.

Sanderling

POL	4	22-08-09	Salinas Do Samouco, Setubal, PORTUGAL
38°43'N 9°2'W			
D38995	VV	04-08-11	Ynyslas, Borth, Dyfed
			1,579km NNE 1y 11m 13d

This represents the first sighting of a Portuguese ringed Sanderling in Britain.

Dunlin

BT10422	3	12-08-10	Ynyslas, Borth, Dyfed
	R	03-09-10	Parque Nacional Marismas Del Odiel, Huelva,
			SPAIN 37°16'N 6°55'W
			1,707km S 0y 0m 22d
POL	3	05-04-08	Salinas Do Samouco, Setubal, PORTUGAL
38°43'N 9°2'W			
D38540	R	17-07-10	Ynyslas, Borth, Dyfed
			1,579km NNE 2y 3m 12d

There are not so many recoveries for this species from the south, the vast bulk are of birds moving east into the low countries. The Portuguese bird is only the fourth to have been reported in Britain.

Woodcock

EX28939	3	10-11-10	Cefncoch, Llanilar, Dyfed
	+F	18-12-11	Montcuit, FRANCE 49°7'N 1°20'W 404km SSE 1y 1m 8d
EP94253	5	11-02-08	Trawsgoed, Llanafan, Aberystwyth, Dyfed
	XF	18-03-11	Oberlehte, GERMANY 53°4'N 8°10'E 819km E 3y 1m 7d
EX42464	4	02-03-11	Castle Hill, Llanilar, Dyfed
	XF	21-03-11	Amsterdam, Oud-Zuid, NETHERLANDS: 52°20'N 4°53'E 606km E 0y 0m 19d
ES58629	4	27-11-08	Esgair-Fwyog, Crychan Forest, Dyfed
	+F	24-04-11	Site Confidential (Novgorod), RUSSIA 3,168km E 2y 4m 28d
EX28539	5	21-01-10	Ynyslas, Borth, Dyfed
	+F	24-04-11	Oktyabr, Nekouzskiy District, RUSSIA 57°49'N 37°23'E 2,692km ENE 1y 3m 3d
EW93650	4	17-01-10	Crinow Farm, Narberth, Dyfed
	+F	15-04-11	Yusupovo, Domodedovskiy District, RUSSIA 55°24'N 37°42'E 2,825km E 1y 2m 29d
EW93390	4	03-03-10	Grip, Llangwryfon, Dyfed
	+F	19-04-11	Mitino, Lyubimskiy District, RUSSIA 58°19'N 40°36'E 2,897km ENE 1y 1m 16d
EX28994	3	29-12-10	Pantamlwg, Trefenter, Dyfed
	+F	05-05-11	Mikhaylovskoe, Olonetskiy District, RUSSIA 61°1'N 33°56'E 2,503km ENE 0y 4m 6d
EX42341	4	20-02-11	Grip, Llangwryfon, Dyfed
	+F	30-04-11	Kharlu, Pitkyarantskiy Rayon, RUSSIA 61°48'N 30°56'E 2,353km ENE 0y 2m 10d

A good range of recoveries, probably just as well given the number that are ringed each year and the effort that goes into catching them.

Curlew

NLA	1	10-05-92	de Koog, Texel, NETHERLANDS 53°4'N 4°43'E
5273705	X	19-06-11	Newgale, Dyfed 680km W 19y 1m 9d

One of the older recoveries reported during 2011.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

GH35081	1	16-07-85	Flat Holm, Glamorgan
	U	12-06-11	Llandegfedd Reservoir, Pontypool, Gwent

GG23988	1	10-07-86	35km NNE 25y 10m 27d Skomer Island, Dyfed)
	I	27-09-11	Rainha, Almada, PORTUGAL 38°36'N 9°13'W 1,489km SSW 25y 2m 17d
GG24114	1	12-07-86	Skomer Island, Dyfed
	VV	23-07-11	Skomer Island, Dyfed 0km 25y 0m 11d

Three long-lived birds, although still some way off the 34 years of the oldest known from the British scheme.

Arctic Tern

XR52003	1	01-07-89	Rhosneigr, Anglesey
	SR	15-05-11	The Skerries, Anglesey 22km NNW 21y 10m 14d
XR31322	1	10-07-89	The Skerries, Llanfairynhornwy, Anglesey
	R	22-05-10	Inner Farne, Farne Islands, Northumberland
308km NE 20y 10m 12d			
	R	19-05-11	Inner Farne, Farne Islands, Northumberland 308km NE 21y 10m 9d

Two old birds hopefully still going strong.

Nightjar

RP59879	1F	26-07-10	Rheola Forest, Resolven, Glamorgan
	R	29-06-11	Ynysir, Glamorgan 25km ESE 0y 11m 3d

Not many of these are ringed each year so getting a recovery, even if it was ringed only 25km away, is still excellent.

Swallow

L607559	1F	17-09-10	Cors Ddyga, Llangejni, Anglesey
	R	05-05-11	Canton Magistris, Verbania, ITALY 45°56'N 8°30'E
L052779 (Dyfed)	1	21-06-10	1,226km SE 0y 7m 18d Kilpaison Marsh, Rhoscrowther: 51°40'N 5°3'W
	R	18-09-10	la Floresta, Lleida, SPAIN 41°26'N 2°5'E 1,260km SSE 0y 2m 28d
IAB 8°14'E	4F	02-05-10	Tumbarino, Porto Torres, SARDINIA 41°1'N
4A30876	XF	13-07-10	Pen-Own, Eglwysrwr, Dyfed
			1,570km NW 0y 2m 11d

A nice set of recoveries showing the difference between the south- and north-bound migration routes of Swallows.

Cetti's Warbler

L534954	1F	30-10-10	Kilpaison Marsh, Rhoscrowther, Dyfed
	R	11-06-11	Attenborough Nature Reserve, Nottinghamshire 294km ENE 0y 7m 12d
L870548	1M	15-09-11	Oxmoor Wood, near Runcorn, Cheshire
	R	02-10-11	Llyn Ystumllyn, Gwynedd

112km WSW 0y 0m 17d

Two good long-distance movements for this usually sedentary species.

Willow Warbler

DHE775	4M	28-03-11	Portland Bill, Dorset
	R	29-03-11	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
			297km NNW 0y 0m 1d

An excellent overnight recovery.

Blackcap

X897682	3M	16-06-10	Magor Marsh, Gwent
	R	23-09-10	Rio Guadalhorce, Malaga, SPAIN 36°46'N
			4°25'W
			1,650km S 0y 3m 7d
BLB	3F	30-10-11	Blauberg, Antwerp, BELGIUM 51°3'N 4°56'E
12371757	XF	20-12-11	Chepstow, Gwent
			540km W 0y 1m 20d

These two recoveries show rather nicely the exit of our breeding Blackcaps to the south for winter and the influx of birds from the east to winter in Britain.

Sedge Warbler

L040109	3	15-08-10	Oxwich Marsh, Glamorgan
	R	03-01-11	Djoudj National Park, SENEGAL 16°25'N
			16°18'W
			4,053km SSW 0y 4m 19d
L040169	3	19-08-10	Oxwich Marsh, Glamorgan
	R	12-01-11	Site Confidential, MAURITANIA
			4,058km SSW 0y 4m 24d
T990464	4	04-05-09	Teifi, Cilgerran, Dyfed
	R	15-01-11	Djoudj National Park, SENEGAL 16°25'N
			16°18'W
			4,094km SSW 1y 8m 11d
X290584	3	13-08-10	Llangorse Lake, Powys
	R	09-01-11	Site Confidential MAURITANIA
			4,117km SSW 0y 4m 27d
ESA	3	14-09-10	Hondarribia, Guipuzcoa, SPAIN 43°21'N 1°49'W
Y09026	R	05-05-11	Magor Marsh, Gwent
			917km N 0y 7m 21d

A great set of overseas recoveries.

Reed Warbler

X909950	3	08-08-10	Uskmouth, Newport, Gwent
	R	28-08-10	Espinhel, Agueda, Aveiro, PORTUGAL 40°33'N
			8°30'W
			1,293km SSW 0y 0m 20d
R424041	3	08-08-10	Kenfig Pool, Glamorgan
	R	15-09-10	Crebrones Del Rio, Leon, SPAIN 42°15'N
			5°50'W
			1,042km S 0y 1m 7d

FRP	3	24-08-08	Conchemarche, Mortagne-Sur-Gironde,
FRANCE 45°29'N 0°47'W			
6060872	R	19-05-11	Kenfig Pool, Glamorgan
			705km NNW 2y 8m 25d
DEW	3	25-08-11	nr Greifswald-Eldena, Hansestadt Greifswald,
GERMANY 54°7'N 13°27'E			
ZE35401	R	26-09-11	Skokholm Island, Dyfed
			1,284km WSW 0y 1m 1d
ESA	4	31-07-10	Zarautz, Guipuzcoa, SPAIN 43°17'N 2°9'W
Y00365	R	24-06-11	Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
			1,106km N 0y 10m 24d

Likewise for Reed Warbler. The movement to Portugal is particularly rapid.

Pied Flycatcher

X560553	1F	12-06-09	Cwm Clydach, Glamorgan
	R	01-05-11	Ustica, Palermo, Sicily, ITALY 38°42'N 13°11'E
			1,966km SE 1y 10m 19d

This species has a similar migration strategy to Swallow moving north through the centre of Europe in the spring and this is only the fourth time a British-ringed Pied Flycatcher has been recovered in Italy.

Siskin

L266395	4F	15-05-10	Shebster, Highland Region
	R	28-01-11	Garth, Llangollen, Clwyd
			622km S 0y 8m 13d
L928516	4M	16-04-11	Lower Cwmtrwrch, Powys
	R	08-06-11	Inverarnie, Highland Region
			625km N 0y 1m 23d
L867948	3M	25-05-11	Llwynmawr, Clwyd
	R	22-08-11	Dukes Warren, Surrey
			273km SE 0y 2m 28d
T580346	3M	01-10-05	Brandon, Suffolk
	R	23-01-11	Llwynmawr, Clwyd
			260km WNW 5y 3m 22d
X571357	4M	02-05-10	Llwynmawr, Clwyd
	XF	29-01-11	Balchrish, Ardgay, Highland Region
			558km N 0y 8m 27d
SVS	3F	05-10-10	Bingsmarken, Skurup, SWEDEN 55°23'N
13°30'E			
CN30864	XF	16-03-11	Saron, Denbigh, Clwyd
			1,129km WSW 0y 5m 11d

A good set of recoveries and always nice to get one from overseas.

Twite

V240499	3	07-11-10	Heysham Harbour, Heysham, Lancashire
	R	17-04-11	Blaen-Y-Nant, Gwynedd
			126km SW 0y 5m 10d

This gives an indication as to how mobile this species can be in the winter, perhaps pushed south by the cold weather?

Hawfinch

NOO 4M 15-04-10 Dybo, Mandal, NORWAY 58°2'N 7°33'E
 EA19129 R 06-04-11 Bont Newydd, Dolgellau, Gwynedd
 925km SW 0y 11m 22d

This is only the fourth record of a Norwegian-ringed Hawfinch being found in Britain.

	2011		2010	
Species	FG	Pulli	FG	Pulli
Mute Swan	57	38	73	55
Whooper Swan	–	–	2	–
Greylag Goose	4	7	–	–
Canada Goose	209	35	126	–
Shelduck	14	–	1	–
Mandarin Duck	2	–	1	9
Wigeon	1	–	3	–
Teal	5	–	6	–
Mallard	22	1	33	–
Pintail	–	–	1	–
Tufted Duck	3	–	18	–
Goldeneye	–	–	1	–
Red-br. Merganser	–	–	1	–
Goosander	–	–	1	16
Red Grouse	1	–	–	–
Fulmar	2	–	3	–
Manx Shearwater	745	558	990	403
Storm Petrel	78	–	87	1
Leach's Petrel	1	–	1	–
Gannet	75	–	82	–
Cormorant	–	308	–	392
Shag	18	401	25	335
Little Egret	1	38	–	97
Grey Heron	1	21	–	60
Little Grebe	1	–	1	–
Honey-buzzard	–	5	–	2
Red Kite	4	182	2	212
Hen Harrier	–	–	–	12
Goshawk	–	41	–	58
Sparrowhawk	11	1	15	2
Buzzard	1	63	3	67

Osprey	–	6	–	3
Kestrel	7	71	4	42
Merlin	–	–	–	12
Hobby	1	10	1	9
Peregrine	–	21	–	30
Water Rail	3	–	12	–
Corncrake	1	–	–	–
Moorhen	11	–	10	1
Coot	11	–	43	–
Oystercatcher	593	15	564	2
Little Ringed Plover	–	4	4	5
Ringed Plover	135	9	150	11
Dotterel	1	–	3	–
Golden Plover	44	–	84	–
Grey Plover	–	–	2	–
Lapwing	76	11	70	8
Knot	6	–	259	–
Sanderling	65	–	3	–
Little Stint	1	–	1	–
Curlew Sandpiper	2	–	5	–
Dunlin	744	–	1211	–
Jack Snipe	10	–	12	–
Snipe	52	–	98	–
Woodcock	711	–	435	–
Black-tailed Godwit	3	–	2	–
Bar-tailed Godwit	33	–	7	–
Whimbrel	38	–	46	–
Curlew	59	3	78	3
Common Sandpiper	23	2	29	2
Green Sandpiper	3	–	–	–
Greenshank	11	–	6	–

Redshank	281	–	240	–
Turnstone	58	–	62	–
Sabine's Gull	1	–	–	–
Kittiwake	125	171	115	158
Black-headed Gull	11	2	25	–
Common Gull	–	–	2	–
Lesser B-b Gull	114	400	114	558
Herring Gull	12	550	15	506
Great B-b Gull	–	104	–	78
Little Tern	–	39	–	50
Sandwich Tern	34	–	6	–
Common Tern	–	138	–	117
Arctic Tern	–	195	1	163
Guillemot	110	644	64	602
Razorbill	134	383	122	577
Puffin	33	117	53	125
Stock Dove	2	8	9	11
Woodpigeon	15	–	13	–
Collared Dove	8	–	16	2
R-necked Parakeet	–	–	1	–
Cuckoo	4	–	1	–
Barn Owl	27	199	22	244
Little Owl	8	5	4	–
Tawny Owl	5	12	9	18
Long-eared Owl	2	–	1	–
Short-eared Owl	1	–		
Nightjar	26	–	47	2
Swift	32	4	13	–
Kingfisher	24	–	28	–
Hoopoe	1	–	–	–
Wryneck	–	–	1	–
Green Woodpecker	1	–	2	–
Gt Sp. Woodpecker	100	–	85	1
Golden Oriole	1	–	–	–
Woodchat Shrike	1	–	–	–
Chough	4	245	6	260
Magpie	25	8	11	23
Jay	25	–	39	–

Jackdaw	39	30	29	47
Rook	2	3	1	–
Carion Crow	1	7	6	17
C/H Crow	–	–	1	–
Raven	–	55	–	64
Goldcrest	516	–	613	–
Firecrest	3	–	7	–
Blue Tit	5077	2808	5592	2795
Great Tit	1988	1415	2113	1492
Coal Tit	407	18	441	86
Willow Tit	24	–	42	9
Marsh Tit	17	8	25	8
Bearded Tit	7	–	17	–
Woodlark	–	3	1	–
Skylark	148	12	126	3
Sand Martin	754	–	247	–
Swallow	2610	983	2582	900
House Martin	20	4	87	–
Cetti's Warbler	67	–	108	–
Long-tailed Tit	556	–	674	–
Greenish Warbler	–	–	1	–
Pallas's Warbler	2	–	2	–
W. Bonelli's Warbler	1	–	–	–
Wood Warbler	53	303	74	316
Chiffchaff	2278	2	2256	11
Willow Warbler	2335	39	1717	55
Blackcap	1547	4	1435	14
Garden Warbler	150	–	243	1
Barred Warbler	1	–	–	–
Lesser Whitethroat	32	–	55	–
Whitethroat	443	6	311	7
Dartford Warbler	–	7	–	–
Subalpine Warbler	1	–	1	–
Grasshopper Warbler	92	–	57	5
Icterine Warbler	1	–	–	–
Melodious Warbler	1	–	3	–
Aquatic Warbler	–	–	3	–

Sedge Warbler	2648	4	2609	2
Marsh Warbler	–	–	1	–
Reed Warbler	2047	14	2721	12
Great Reed Warbler	–	–	1	–
Waxwing	–	–	40	–
Nuthatch	106	237	111	218
Treecreeper	74	11	78	5
Wren	535	–	663	27
Starling	173	8	293	12
Dipper	66	297	64	511
Ring Ouzel	2	–	6	–
Blackbird	868	28	1459	59
Fieldfare	75	–	135	–
Song Thrush	216	5	284	10
Redwing	196	–	383	–
Mistle Thrush	7	–	27	4
Spotted Flycatcher	25	26	27	47
Robin	756	21	866	56
Red-br. Flycatcher	1	–	–	–
Pied Flycatcher	455	4172	430	5147
Black Redstart	3	3	1	–
Redstart	50	298	44	267
Whinchat	3	244	–	196
Stonechat	22	16	6	–
Wheatear	52	38	18	97
Dunnock	731	5	697	13
House Sparrow	651	39	612	65

Tree Sparrow	1	218	1	248
Yellow Wagtail	15	–	1	–
Grey Wagtail	12	48	16	21
Pied/White Wagtail	370	43	232	21
Tree Pipit	6	11	5	5
Meadow Pipit	124	21	292	31
Rock Pipit	49	3	106	–
Chaffinch	1896	7	1703	5
Brambling	71	–	67	–
Greenfinch	923	5	793	16
Goldfinch	1135	6	1223	2
Siskin	2180	–	1181	–
Linnet	85	18	68	33
Twite	11	–	30	–
Lesser Redpoll	329	–	397	1
Common Redpoll	2	–	1	–
Redpoll spp.	48	–	45	–
Common Crossbill	15	19	5	3
Common Rosefinch	1	–	2	–
Bullfinch	367	1	312	1
Hawfinch	175	–	120	–
Snow Bunting	6	–	–	–
Lapland Bunting	3	–	7	–
Yellowhammer	99	–	99	–
Reed Bunting	517	–	699	6
Grand Total	42500	16648	43593	18315